



(11) **EP 4 543 007 A2**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
23.04.2025 Bulletin 2025/17

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):
H04N 19/96 (2014.01)

(21) Application number: **25162800.4**

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):
**H04N 19/96; H04N 19/105; H04N 19/119;
H04N 19/176; H04N 19/186; H04N 19/196;
H04N 19/426; H04N 19/593; H04N 19/129;
H04N 19/70**

(22) Date of filing: **11.07.2019**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO
PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**

(30) Priority: **11.07.2018 US 201862696584 P**

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
19834458.2 / 3 823 283

(71) Applicant: **Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.
Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do 16677 (KR)**

(72) Inventors:
• **CHOI, Narae**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)
• **PARK, Minsoo**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)
• **PARK, Minwoo**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)

• **JEONG, Seungsoo**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)
• **CHOI, Kiho**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)
• **CHOI, Woongil**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)
• **TAMSE, Anish**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)
• **PIAO, Yinji**
16677 Suwon-Si (KR)

(74) Representative: **Appleyard Lees IP LLP**
15 Clare Road
Halifax HX1 2HY (GB)

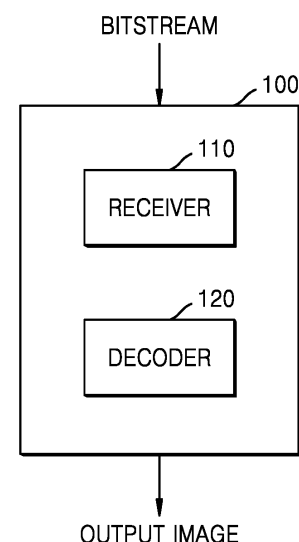
Remarks:

This application was filed on 11.03.2025 as a
divisional application to the application mentioned
under INID code 62.

(54) **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR VIDEO DECODING, AND METHOD AND DEVICE FOR VIDEO ENCODING**

(57) Provided are a video decoding method and apparatus which, during video encoding and decoding processes, determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines, and use the determined upper reference line.

FIG. 1



Description**Technical Field**

5 **[0001]** The disclosure relates to a video decoding method and a video decoding apparatus, and more particularly, to a video encoding method and apparatus and a video decoding method and apparatus, in which, when at least one reference line is used, in a case where a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, an upper reference line is determined and used as one reference line.

10 **Background art**

[0002] Image data is encoded by a codec according to a preset data compression standard, e.g., the Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) standard, and then stored in a recording medium or transmitted in the form of a bitstream through a communication channel.

15 **[0003]** With the development and spread of hardware capable of reproducing and storing high-resolution or high-definition image content, the need for a codec that effectively encodes or decodes high-resolution or high-definition image content has increased. Encoded image content may be decoded and then reproduced. Recently, methods of effectively compressing such high-resolution or high-definition image content are used. For example, a method of randomly splitting an image to be encoded or a procedure of manipulating data has been proposed to allow an image compression technique to be effectively implemented.

20 **[0004]** As one of data manipulation techniques, it is common to use one or two reference lines to perform prediction.

Description of embodiments25 **Technical problem**

[0005] Provided are a method and an apparatus, which, during video encoding and decoding processes, determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, when in contact with the upper boundary, determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line, when not in contact with the upper boundary, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines, and use the determined upper reference line.

Technical solution to problem

35 **[0006]** To solve the technical problem, a video decoding method according to the disclosure includes: determining whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block; when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line; when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and performing prediction on the current block, based on the determined upper reference line, wherein N is a natural number.

40 **[0007]** To solve the technical problem, a video decoding apparatus according to the disclosure includes: a memory; and at least one processor connected to the memory, wherein the at least one processor is configured to: determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block; when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line; when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and perform prediction on the current block, based on the determined upper reference line, wherein N is a natural number.

45 **[0008]** To solve the technical problem, a video encoding method according to the disclosure includes: determining whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block; when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line; when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and performing prediction on the current block, wherein N is a natural number.

50 **[0009]** To solve the technical problem, a video encoding apparatus according to the disclosure includes at least one processor connected to a memory, wherein the at least one processor is configured to: determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block; when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the

current block as one reference line; when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and perform prediction on the current block, based on the determined upper reference line, wherein N is a natural number.

Advantageous effects of disclosure

[0010] During video encoding and decoding processes, whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block is determined, when it is determined to be in contact with the upper boundary, an upper reference line of the current block is determined as one reference line, when it is determined not to be in contact with the upper boundary, the upper reference line of the current block is determined based on N reference lines, and the determined upper reference line is used, such that the size of a buffer generated when a plurality of reference lines are used may be reduced.

Brief description of drawings

[0011]

FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic block diagram of an image decoding apparatus according to an embodiment.

FIG. 2 illustrates a flowchart of an image decoding method according to an embodiment.

FIG. 3 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 4 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a non-square coding unit, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 5 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of splitting a coding unit based on at least one of block shape information and split shape mode information, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 6 illustrates a method, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining a preset coding unit from among an odd number of coding units, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 7 illustrates an order of processing a plurality of coding units when an image decoding apparatus determines the plurality of coding units by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 8 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining that a current coding unit is to be split into an odd number of coding units, when the coding units are not processable in a preset order, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 9 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a first coding unit, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 10 illustrates that a shape into which a second coding unit is splittable is restricted when the second coding unit having a non-square shape, which is determined when an image decoding apparatus splits a first coding unit, satisfies a preset condition, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 11 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of splitting a square coding unit when split shape mode information indicates that the square coding unit is not to be split into four square coding units, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 12 illustrates that a processing order between a plurality of coding units may be changed depending on a process of splitting a coding unit, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 13 illustrates a process of determining a depth of a coding unit as a shape and size of the coding unit change, when the coding unit is recursively split such that a plurality of coding units are determined, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 14 illustrates depths that are determinable based on shapes and sizes of coding units, and part indexes (PIDs) that are for distinguishing the coding units, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 15 illustrates that a plurality of coding units are determined based on a plurality of preset data units included in a picture, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 16 illustrates a processing block serving as a unit for determining a determination order of reference coding units included in a picture, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 17 illustrates a block diagram of a video encoding apparatus according to an embodiment.

FIG. 18 illustrates a flowchart of a video encoding method according to an embodiment.

FIG. 19 illustrates a block diagram of a video decoding apparatus according to an embodiment.

FIG. 20 illustrates a flowchart of a video decoding method according to an embodiment.

FIG. 21 is a diagram for describing a method of using at least one reference line, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 22 illustrates a flowchart of a video encoding method according to another embodiment.

FIG. 23 illustrates a flowchart of a video decoding method according to another embodiment.

FIG. 24A illustrates luma samples located around a current luma block and a chroma sample located around a current chroma block, according to an embodiment. FIG. 24B illustrates luma samples of a current luma block and a chroma sample of a current chroma block, according to an embodiment.

FIG. 25A illustrates luma samples located around a current luma block and a chroma sample located around a current chroma block, according to another embodiment. FIG. 25B illustrates luma samples of a current luma block and a chroma sample of a current chroma block, according to another embodiment.

FIG. 26A illustrates an embodiment in which the number of upper reference lines is different from the number of left reference lines. FIG. 26B illustrates an embodiment in which the number of upper reference lines is the same as the number of left reference lines. FIG. 26C illustrates an embodiment in which, when the number of upper reference lines is different from the number of left reference lines, padding is performed so that the number of upper reference lines and the number of left reference lines are the same.

Best mode

[0012] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, a video decoding method includes: determining whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block; when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line; when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and based on the determined upper reference line, performing prediction on the current block, wherein N is a natural number.

[0013] According to an embodiment, N may be determined according to reference line information obtained from a bitstream.

[0014] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the reference line information may not be obtained.

[0015] According to an embodiment, when N is 2, the upper reference line may be determined as a second reference line in contact with an upper side of a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current block.

[0016] According to an embodiment, when N is 3, the upper reference line may be determined as a fourth reference line in contact with an upper side of a third reference line in contact with an upper side of a second reference line in contact with an upper side of a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current block.

[0017] According to an embodiment, a left reference line located in a left side of the current block is determined based on the N reference lines.

[0018] According to an embodiment, when a reference line having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, a sample value of the reference line having no sample value may be padded by using a predetermined default value.

[0019] According to an embodiment, when a reference line having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, a value of a reference sample having no sample value may be padded with a reference sample having sample value, or a sample of the reference line having no sample value may be regenerated by using a sample value of a reference line having a sample value.

[0020] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, a video decoding method includes: determining whether a current luma block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current luma block; when it is determined that the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current luma block as one reference line; when it is determined that the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current luma block as two reference lines; and based on the determined upper reference line, performing prediction on a current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block.

[0021] According to an embodiment, the two reference lines may include a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current luma block and a second reference line in contact with an upper side of the first reference line.

[0022] According to an embodiment, weight information and deviation information may be determined based on a relationship between luma reference samples of the current luma block included in the upper reference line and a chroma reference sample in contact with an upper side of the current chroma block, and by determining the current chroma block based on the weight information, the deviation information, and luma samples of the current luma block, prediction may be performed on the current chroma block.

[0023] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, a video encoding method includes: determining whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block; when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line; when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and based on the determined upper reference line, performing prediction on the current block, wherein N is a natural number.

[0024] According to an embodiment, the video encoding method may further include generating reference line information indicating a value of N.

[0025] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the reference line information may not be generated.

[0026] According to an embodiment, when N is 3, the upper reference line may be determined as a fourth reference line in contact with an upper side of a third reference line in contact with an upper side of a second reference line in contact with an upper side of a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current block.

Mode Of Disclosure

[0027] The advantages and features of the disclosure and methods of achieving the advantages and features will be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the disclosure are shown. The disclosure may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as being limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather these embodiments are provided so that the disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the concept of the disclosure to one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0028] The terms used herein will be briefly described, and disclosed embodiments will be described in detail.

[0029] The terms used herein are those general terms currently widely used in the art in consideration of functions in the disclosure, but the terms may vary according to the intention of one of ordinary skill in the art, precedents, or new technology in the art. Also, some of the terms used herein may be arbitrarily chosen by the present applicant, and in this case, these terms are defined in detail below. Accordingly, the specific terms used herein should be defined based on the unique meanings thereof and the whole context of the disclosure.

[0030] It is to be understood that the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0031] It will be understood that when a certain part "includes" a certain component, the part does not exclude another component but may further include another component, unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0032] Also, the term "~ unit" used herein refers to a software component or a hardware component, which performs certain tasks. However, the term "~ unit" is not limited to software or hardware. A "~ unit" may be configured to be in an addressable storage medium or configured to operate one or more processors. Thus, a "~ unit" may include, by way of example, components such as software components, object-oriented software components, class components, and task components, processes, functions, attributes, procedures, subroutines, segments of program code, drivers, firmware, microcode, circuitry, data, databases, data structures, tables, arrays, and variables. The functionality provided by the components and "~ units" may be combined into fewer components and "~ units" or further separated into additional components and "~ units".

[0033] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the "unit" may include a processor and a memory. The term

"processor" should be interpreted broadly to include a general purpose processor, a central processing unit (CPU), a microprocessor, a digital signal processor (DSP), a controller, a microcontroller, a state machine, etc. In some circumstances, the "processor" may refer to an application specific semiconductor (ASIC), a programmable logic device (PLD), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), etc. The term "processor" may refer to a combination of processing devices such as, for example, a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a combination of a plurality of microprocessors, a combination of one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or a combination of any other such configuration.

[0034] The term "memory" should be interpreted broadly to include any electronic component capable of storing electronic information. The term "memory" may refer to various types of processor-readable media, such as a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), a non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM), a programmable read-only memory (PROM), an erase-programmable read-only memory (EPROM), an electrically erasable PROM (EEPROM), a flash memory, a magnetic or optical data storage device, a register, etc. When the processor can read information from a memory and/or write information to the memory, the memory is said to be in an electronic communication state with the processor. The memory integrated in the processor is in an electronic communication state with the processor.

[0035] Hereinafter, an "image" may indicate a still image of a video or may indicate a dynamic image such as a moving image, that is, the video itself.

[0036] Hereinafter, a "sample" denotes data assigned to a sampling location of an image, i.e., data to be processed. For example, pixel values of an image in a spatial domain and transform coefficients on a transform region may be samples. A unit including at least one such sample may be defined as a block.

[0037] Also, in the present specification, a "current block" may denote a block of a largest coding unit, a coding unit, a prediction unit, or a transform unit of a current image to be encoded or decoded.

[0038] The disclosure will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings for one of ordinary skill in the art to be able to perform the disclosure without any difficulty. Also, portions irrelevant to the descriptions of the disclosure will be omitted in the drawings for clear descriptions of the disclosure.

[0039] Hereinafter, an image encoding apparatus and an image decoding apparatus, and an image encoding method and an image decoding method according to embodiments will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 through 16. A method of determining a data unit of an image, according to an embodiment, will be described with reference to FIGS. 3 to 16. A video encoding/decoding method according to an embodiment will be described below with reference to FIGS. 17 to 21, in which whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block is determined, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary, an upper reference line of the current block is determined as one reference line, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary, the upper reference line of the current block is determined based on N reference lines, and prediction on the current block is performed based on the determined upper reference line. A video encoding/decoding method according to another embodiment will be described below with reference to FIGS. 22 to 25, in which whether a current luma block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current luma block is determined, when it is determined that the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary, an upper reference line of the current luma block is determined as one reference line, when it is determined that the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary, the upper reference line of the current luma block is determined as two reference lines, and prediction on a current chroma block corresponding the current luma block is performed based on the determined upper reference line. A video encoding/decoding method using a plurality of reference lines, according to an embodiment, will be described below with reference to FIG. 26.

[0040] Hereinafter, a method and apparatus for adaptively selecting a context model, based on various shapes of coding units, according to an embodiment of the disclosure, will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2.

[0041] FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic block diagram of an image decoding apparatus according to an embodiment.

[0042] The image decoding apparatus 100 may include a receiver 110 and a decoder 120. The receiver 110 and the decoder 120 may include at least one processor. Also, the receiver 110 and the decoder 120 may include a memory storing instructions to be performed by the at least one processor.

[0043] The receiver 110 may receive a bitstream. The bitstream includes information of an image encoded by an image encoding apparatus 2200 described below. Also, the bitstream may be transmitted from the image encoding apparatus 2200. The image encoding apparatus 2200 and the image decoding apparatus 100 may be connected via wires or wirelessly, and the receiver 110 may receive the bitstream via wires or wirelessly. The receiver 110 may receive the bitstream from a storage medium, such as an optical medium or a hard disk. The decoder 120 may reconstruct an image based on information obtained from the received bitstream. The decoder 120 may obtain, from the bitstream, a syntax element for reconstructing the image. The decoder 120 may reconstruct the image based on the syntax element.

[0044] Operations of the image decoding apparatus 100 will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 2.

[0045] FIG. 2 illustrates a flowchart of an image decoding method according to an embodiment.

[0046] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the receiver 110 receives a bitstream.

[0047] The image decoding apparatus 100 obtains, from a bitstream, a bin string corresponding to a split shape mode of a coding unit (operation 210). The image decoding apparatus 100 determines a split rule of coding units (operation 220). Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 splits the coding unit into a plurality of coding units, based on at least one of the bin string corresponding to the split shape mode and the split rule (operation 230). The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine an allowable first range of a size of the coding unit, according to a ratio of the width and the height of the coding unit, so as to determine the split rule. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine an allowable second range of the size of the coding unit, according to the split shape mode of the coding unit, so as to determine the split rule.

[0048] Hereinafter, splitting of a coding unit will be described in detail according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0049] First, one picture may be split into one or more slices or one or more tiles. One slice or one tile may be a sequence of one or more largest coding units (coding tree units (CTUs)). There is a largest coding block (coding tree block (CTB)) conceptually compared to a largest coding unit (CTU).

[0050] The largest coding block (CTB) denotes an $N \times N$ block including $N \times N$ samples (where N is an integer). Each color component may be split into one or more largest coding blocks.

[0051] When a picture has three sample arrays (sample arrays for Y, Cr, and Cb components), a largest coding unit (CTU) includes a largest coding block of a luma sample, two corresponding largest coding blocks of chroma samples, and syntax structures used to encode the luma sample and the chroma samples. When a picture is a monochrome picture, a largest coding unit includes a largest coding block of a monochrome sample and syntax structures used to encode the monochrome samples. When a picture is a picture encoded in color planes separated according to color components, a largest coding unit includes syntax structures used to encode the picture and samples of the picture.

[0052] One largest coding block (CTB) may be split into $M \times N$ coding blocks including $M \times N$ samples (M and N are integers).

[0053] When a picture has sample arrays for Y, Cr, and Cb components, a coding unit (CU) includes a coding block of a luma sample, two corresponding coding blocks of chroma samples, and syntax structures used to encode the luma sample and the chroma samples. When a picture is a monochrome picture, a coding unit includes a coding block of a monochrome sample and syntax structures used to encode the monochrome samples. When a picture is a picture encoded in color planes separated according to color components, a coding unit includes syntax structures used to encode the picture and samples of the picture.

[0054] As described above, a largest coding block and a largest coding unit are conceptually distinguished from each other, and a coding block and a coding unit are conceptually distinguished from each other. That is, a (largest) coding unit refers to a data structure including a (largest) coding block including a corresponding sample and a syntax structure corresponding to the (largest) coding block. However, because it is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that a (largest) coding unit or a (largest) coding block refers to a block of a preset size including a preset number of samples, a largest coding block and a largest coding unit, or a coding block and a coding unit are mentioned in the following specification without being distinguished unless otherwise described.

[0055] An image may be split into largest coding units (CTUs). A size of each largest coding unit may be determined based on information obtained from a bitstream. A shape of each largest coding unit may be a square shape of the same size. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto.

[0056] For example, information about a maximum size of a luma coding block may be obtained from a bitstream. For example, the maximum size of the luma coding block indicated by the information about the maximum size of the luma coding block may be one of 4×4 , 8×8 , 16×16 , 32×32 , 64×64 , 128×128 , and 256×256 .

[0057] For example, information about a luma block size difference and a maximum size of a luma coding block that may be split into two may be obtained from a bitstream. The information about the luma block size difference may refer to a size difference between a luma largest coding unit and a largest luma coding block that may be split into two. Accordingly, when the information about the maximum size of the luma coding block that may be split into two and the information about the luma block size difference obtained from the bitstream are combined with each other, a size of the luma largest coding unit may be determined. A size of a chroma largest coding unit may be determined by using the size of the luma largest coding unit. For example, when a Y:Cb:Cr ratio is 4:2:0 according to a color format, a size of a chroma block may be half a size of a luma block, and a size of a chroma largest coding unit may be half a size of a luma largest coding unit.

[0058] According to an embodiment, because information about a maximum size of a luma coding block that is binary splittable is obtained from a bitstream, the maximum size of the luma coding block that is binary splittable may be variably determined. In contrast, a maximum size of a luma coding block that is ternary splittable may be fixed. For example, the maximum size of the luma coding block that is ternary splittable in an I-picture may be 32×32 , and the maximum size of the luma coding block that is ternary splittable in a P-picture or a B-picture may be 64×64 .

[0059] Also, a largest coding unit may be hierarchically split into coding units based on split shape mode information obtained from a bitstream. At least one of information indicating whether quad splitting is performed, information indicating whether multi-splitting is performed, split direction information, and split type information may be obtained as the split shape mode information from the bitstream.

[0060] For example, the information indicating whether quad splitting is performed may indicate whether a current

coding unit is quad split (QUAD_SPLIT) or not.

[0061] When the current coding unit is not quad split, the information indicating whether multi-splitting is performed may indicate whether the current coding unit is no longer split (NO_SPLIT) or binary/ternary split.

[0062] When the current coding unit is binary split or ternary split, the split direction information indicates that the current coding unit is split in one of a horizontal direction and a vertical direction.

[0063] When the current coding unit is split in the horizontal direction or the vertical direction, the split type information indicates that the current coding unit is binary split or ternary split.

[0064] A split mode of the current coding unit may be determined according to the split direction information and the split type information. A split mode when the current coding unit is binary split in the horizontal direction may be determined to be a binary horizontal split mode (SPLIT_BT_HOR), a split mode when the current coding unit is ternary split in the horizontal direction may be determined to be a ternary horizontal split mode (SPLIT_TT_HOR), a split mode when the current coding unit is binary split in the vertical direction may be determined to be a binary vertical split mode (SPLIT_BT_VER), and a split mode when the current coding unit is ternary split in the vertical direction may be determined to be a ternary vertical split mode (SPLIT_TT_VER).

[0065] The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain, from the bitstream, the split shape mode information from one bin string. A form of the bitstream received by the image decoding apparatus 100 may include fixed length binary code, unary code, truncated unary code, predetermined binary code, or the like. The bin string is information in a binary number. The bin string may include at least one bit. The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the split shape mode information corresponding to the bin string, based on the split rule. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether to quad split a coding unit, whether not to split a coding unit, a split direction, and a split type, based on one bin string.

[0066] The coding unit may be smaller than or the same as the largest coding unit. For example, because a largest coding unit is a coding unit having a maximum size, the largest coding unit is one of coding units. When split shape mode information about a largest coding unit indicates that splitting is not performed, a coding unit determined in the largest coding unit has the same size as that of the largest coding unit. When split shape mode information about a largest coding unit indicates that splitting is performed, the largest coding unit may be split into coding units. Also, when split shape mode information about a coding unit indicates that splitting is performed, the coding unit may be split into smaller coding units. However, the splitting of the image is not limited thereto, and the largest coding unit and the coding unit may not be distinguished. The splitting of the coding unit will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 3 through 16.

[0067] Also, one or more prediction blocks for prediction may be determined from a coding unit. The prediction block may be the same as or smaller than the coding unit. Also, one or more transform blocks for transform may be determined from a coding unit. The transform block may be the same as or smaller than the coding unit.

[0068] The shapes and sizes of the transform block and prediction block may not be related to each other.

[0069] In another embodiment, prediction may be performed by using a coding unit as a prediction unit. Also, transformation may be performed by using a coding unit as a transform block.

[0070] The splitting of the coding unit will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 3 through 16. A current block and an adjacent block of the disclosure may indicate one of the largest coding unit, the coding unit, the prediction block, and the transform block. Also, the current block of the current coding unit is a block that is currently being decoded or encoded or a block that is currently being split. The adjacent block may be a block reconstructed before the current block. The adjacent block may be adjacent to the current block spatially or temporally. The adjacent block may be located at one of the lower left, left, upper left, top, upper right, right, lower right of the current block.

[0071] FIG. 3 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0072] A block shape may include 4Nx4N, 4Nx2N, 2Nx4N, 4NxN, Nx4N, 32NxN, Nx32N, 16NxN, Nx16N, 8NxN, or Nx8N. Here, N may be a positive integer. Block shape information is information indicating at least one of a shape, a direction, a ratio of width and height, or size of a coding unit.

[0073] The shape of the coding unit may include a square and a non-square. When the lengths of the width and height of the coding unit are the same (i.e., when the block shape of the coding unit is 4Nx4N), the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the block shape information of the coding unit as a square. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the shape of the coding unit to be a non-square.

[0074] When the width and the height of the coding unit are different from each other (i.e., when the block shape of the coding unit is 4Nx2N, 2Nx4N, 4NxN, Nx4N, 32NxN, Nx32N, 16NxN, Nx16N, 8NxN, or Nx8N), the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the block shape information of the coding unit as a non-square shape. When the shape of the coding unit is non-square, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the ratio of the width and height among the block shape information of the coding unit to be at least one of 1:2, 2:1, 1:4, 4:1, 1:8, 8:1, 1:16, 16:1, 1:32, and 32:1. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether the coding unit is in a horizontal direction or a vertical direction, based on the length of the width and the length of the height of the coding unit. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of the coding unit, based on at least one of the length of the width, the length of the height, or the area of the coding unit.

[0075] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the shape of the coding unit by using the block shape information, and may determine a splitting method of the coding unit by using the split shape mode information. That is, a coding unit splitting method indicated by the split shape mode information may be determined based on a block shape indicated by the block shape information used by the image decoding apparatus 100.

[0076] The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the split shape mode information from a bitstream. However, an embodiment is not limited thereto, and the image decoding apparatus 100 and the image encoding apparatus 2200 may determine pre-agreed split shape mode information, based on the block shape information. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the pre-agreed split shape mode information with respect to a largest coding unit or a smallest coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine split shape mode information with respect to the largest coding unit to be a quad split. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine split shape mode information regarding the smallest coding unit to be "not to perform splitting". In particular, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of the largest coding unit to be 256x256. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the pre-agreed split shape mode information to be a quad split. The quad split is a split shape mode in which the width and the height of the coding unit are both bisected. The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain a coding unit of a 128x128 size from the largest coding unit of a 256x256 size, based on the split shape mode information. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of the smallest coding unit to be 4x4. The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain split shape mode information indicating "not to perform splitting" with respect to the smallest coding unit.

[0077] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use the block shape information indicating that the current coding unit has a square shape. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether not to split a square coding unit, whether to vertically split the square coding unit, whether to horizontally split the square coding unit, or whether to split the square coding unit into four coding units, based on the split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 3, when the block shape information of a current coding unit 300 indicates a square shape, the decoder 120 may determine that a coding unit 310a having the same size as the current coding unit 300 is not split, based on the split shape mode information indicating not to perform splitting, or may determine coding units 310b, 310c, 310d, 310e, or 310f split based on the split shape mode information indicating a preset splitting method.

[0078] Referring to FIG. 3, according to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine two coding units 310b obtained by splitting the current coding unit 300 in a vertical direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform splitting in a vertical direction. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine two coding units 310c obtained by splitting the current coding unit 300 in a horizontal direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform splitting in a horizontal direction. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine four coding units 310d obtained by splitting the current coding unit 300 in vertical and horizontal directions, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform splitting in vertical and horizontal directions. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine three coding units 310e obtained by splitting the current coding unit 300 in a vertical direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform ternary splitting in a vertical direction. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine three coding units 310f obtained by splitting the current coding unit 300 in a horizontal direction, based on the split shape mode information indicating to perform ternary splitting in a horizontal direction. However, splitting methods of the square coding unit are not limited to the above-described methods, and the split shape mode information may indicate various methods. Preset splitting methods of splitting the square coding unit will be described in detail below in relation to various embodiments.

[0079] FIG. 4 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a non-square coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0080] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use block shape information indicating that a current coding unit has a non-square shape. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether not to split the non-square current coding unit or whether to split the non-square current coding unit by using a preset splitting method, based on split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 4, when the block shape information of a current coding unit 400 or 450 indicates a non-square shape, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine that a coding unit 410 or 460 having the same size as the current coding unit 400 or 450 is not split, based on the split shape mode information indicating not to perform splitting, or determine coding units 420a and 420b, 430a to 430c, 470a and 470b, or 480a to 480c split based on the split shape mode information indicating a preset splitting method. Preset splitting methods of splitting a non-square coding unit will be described in detail below in relation to various embodiments.

[0081] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a splitting method of a coding unit by using the split shape mode information and, in this case, the split shape mode information may indicate the number of one or more coding units generated by splitting a coding unit. Referring to FIG. 4, when the split shape mode information indicates to split the current coding unit 400 or 450 into two coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine two coding units 420a and 420b, or 470a and 470b included in the current coding unit 400 or 450, by splitting the current coding unit 400 or 450 based on the split shape mode information.

[0082] According to an embodiment, when the image decoding apparatus 100 splits the non-square current coding unit 400 or 450 based on the split shape mode information, the image decoding apparatus 100 may consider the location of a

long side of the non-square current coding unit 400 or 450 to split a current coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a plurality of coding units by splitting the current coding unit 400 or 450 in a direction of splitting a long side of the current coding unit 400 or 450, in consideration of the shape of the current coding unit 400 or 450.

[0083] According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split (ternary split) a coding unit into an odd number of blocks, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine an odd number of coding units included in the current coding unit 400 or 450. For example, when the split shape mode information indicates to split the current coding unit 400 or 450 into three coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the current coding unit 400 or 450 into three coding units 430a, 430b, and 430c, or 480a, 480b, and 480c.

[0084] According to an embodiment, a ratio of the width and height of the current coding unit 400 or 450 may be 4:1 or 1:4. When the ratio of the width and height is 4:1, the block shape information may be a horizontal direction because the length of the width is longer than the length of the height. When the ratio of the width and height is 1:4, the block shape information may be a vertical direction because the length of the width is shorter than the length of the height. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine to split a current coding unit into the odd number of blocks, based on the split shape mode information. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a split direction of the current coding unit 400 or 450, based on the block shape information of the current coding unit 400 or 450. For example, when the current coding unit 400 is in the vertical direction, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding units 430a to 430c by splitting the current coding unit 400 in the horizontal direction. Also, when the current coding unit 450 is in the horizontal direction, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding units 480a to 480c by splitting the current coding unit 450 in the vertical direction.

[0085] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the odd number of coding units included in the current coding unit 400 or 450, and not all the determined coding units may have the same size. For example, a preset coding unit 430b or 480b from among the determined odd number of coding units 430a, 430b, and 430c, or 480a, 480b, and 480c may have a size different from the size of the other coding units 430a and 430c, or 480a and 480c. That is, coding units which may be determined by splitting the current coding unit 400 or 450 may have multiple sizes and, in some cases, all of the odd number of coding units 430a, 430b, and 430c, or 480a, 480b, and 480c may have different sizes.

[0086] According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split a coding unit into the odd number of blocks, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the odd number of coding units included in the current coding unit 400 or 450, and moreover, may put a preset restriction on at least one coding unit from among the odd number of coding units generated by splitting the current coding unit 400 or 450. Referring to FIG. 4, the image decoding apparatus 100 may set a decoding process regarding the coding unit 430b or 480b located at the center among the three coding units 430a, 430b, and 430c, or 480a, 480b, and 480c generated as the current coding unit 400 or 450 is split to be different from that of the other coding units 430a and 430c, or 480a and 480c. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may restrict the coding unit 430b or 480b at the center location to be no longer split or to be split only a preset number of times, unlike the other coding units 430a and 430c, or 480a and 480c.

[0087] FIG. 5 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of splitting a coding unit based on at least one of block shape information and split shape mode information, according to an embodiment.

[0088] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine to split or not to split a square first coding unit 500 into coding units, based on at least one of the block shape information and the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split the first coding unit 500 in a horizontal direction, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a second coding unit 510 by splitting the first coding unit 500 in a horizontal direction. A first coding unit, a second coding unit, and a third coding unit used according to an embodiment are terms used to understand a relation before and after splitting a coding unit. For example, a second coding unit may be determined by splitting a first coding unit, and a third coding unit may be determined by splitting the second coding unit. It will be understood that the structure of the first coding unit, the second coding unit, and the third coding unit follows the above descriptions.

[0089] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine to split or not to split the determined second coding unit 510 into coding units, based on the split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 5, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the non-square second coding unit 510, which is determined by splitting the first coding unit 500, into one or more third coding units 520a, 520b, 520c, and 520d based on at least one of the split shape mode information and the split shape mode information, or may not split the non-square second coding unit 510. The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the split shape mode information, and may obtain a plurality of various-shaped second coding units (e.g., 510) by splitting the first coding unit 500, based on the obtained split shape mode information, and the second coding unit 510 may be split by using a splitting method of the first coding unit 500 based on the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, when the first coding unit 500 is split into the second coding units 510 based on the split shape mode information of the first coding unit 500, the second coding unit 510 may also be split into the third coding units (e.g., 520a, 520b, 520c, and 520d) based on the split shape mode information of the second coding unit 510. That is, a coding unit may be recursively split based on the split shape mode information of each coding unit. Therefore, a square coding unit may be determined by splitting a non-square coding unit, and a non-square coding unit

may be determined by recursively splitting the square coding unit.

[0090] Referring to FIG. 5, a preset coding unit (e.g., a coding unit located at a center location, or a square coding unit) from among an odd number of third coding units 520b, 520c, and 520d determined by splitting the non-square second coding unit 510 may be recursively split. According to an embodiment, the square third coding unit 520c from among the odd number of third coding units 520b, 520c, and 520d may be split in a horizontal direction into a plurality of fourth coding units. A non-square fourth coding unit 530b or 530d from among the plurality of fourth coding units 530a, 530b, 530c, and 530d may be re-split into a plurality of coding units. For example, the non-square fourth coding unit 530b or 530d may be re-split into an odd number of coding units. A method that may be used to recursively split a coding unit will be described below in relation to various embodiments.

[0091] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split each of the third coding units 520a, or 520b, 520c, and 520d into coding units, based on the split shape mode information. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine not to split the second coding unit 510 based on the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the non-square second coding unit 510 into the odd number of third coding units 520b, 520c, and 520d. The image decoding apparatus 100 may put a preset restriction on a preset third coding unit from among the odd number of third coding units 520b, 520c, and 520d. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may restrict the third coding unit 520c at a center location from among the odd number of third coding units 520b, 520c, and 520d to be no longer split or to be split a settable number of times.

[0092] Referring to FIG. 5, the image decoding apparatus 100 may restrict the third coding unit 520c, which is at the center location from among the odd number of third coding units 520b, 520c, and 520d included in the non-square second coding unit 510, to be no longer split, to be split by using a preset splitting method (e.g., split into only four coding units or split by using a splitting method of the second coding unit 510), or to be split only a preset number of times (e.g., split only n times (where $n > 0$)). However, the restrictions on the third coding unit 520c at the center location are not limited to the above-described examples, and may include various restrictions for decoding the third coding unit 520c at the center location differently from the other third coding units 520b and 520d.

[0093] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the split shape mode information, which is used to split a current coding unit, from a preset location in the current coding unit.

[0094] FIG. 6 illustrates a method, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining a preset coding unit from among an odd number of coding units, according to an embodiment.

[0095] Referring to FIG. 6, split shape mode information of a current coding unit 600 or 650 may be obtained from a sample of a preset location (e.g., a sample 640 or 690 of a center location) from among a plurality of samples included in the current coding unit 600 or 650. However, the preset location in the current coding unit 600, from which at least one piece of the split shape mode information may be obtained, is not limited to the center location in FIG. 6, and may include various locations included in the current coding unit 600 (e.g., top, bottom, left, right, upper left, lower left, upper right, lower right locations, or the like). The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the split shape mode information from the preset location and may determine to split or not to split the current coding unit into various-shaped and various-sized coding units.

[0096] According to an embodiment, when the current coding unit is split into a preset number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may select one of the coding units. Various methods may be used to select one of a plurality of coding units, as will be described below in relation to various embodiments.

[0097] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the current coding unit into a plurality of coding units, and may determine a coding unit at a preset location.

[0098] According to an embodiment, image decoding apparatus 100 may use information indicating locations of the odd number of coding units, to determine a coding unit at a center location from among the odd number of coding units. Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the odd number of coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c or the odd number of coding units 660a, 660b, and 660c by splitting the current coding unit 600 or the current coding unit 650. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the middle coding unit 620b or the middle coding unit 660b by using information about the locations of the odd number of coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c or the odd number of coding units 660a, 660b, and 660c. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit 620b of the center location by determining the locations of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c based on information indicating locations of preset samples included in the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c. In detail, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit 620b at the center location by determining the locations of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c based on information indicating locations of upper-left samples 630a, 630b, and 630c of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c.

[0099] According to an embodiment, the information indicating the locations of the upper-left samples 630a, 630b, and 630c, which are included in the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c, respectively, may include information about locations or coordinates of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c in a picture. According to an embodiment, the information indicating the locations of the upper-left samples 630a, 630b, and 630c, which are included in the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c, respectively, may include information indicating widths or heights of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c included in the

current coding unit 600, and the widths or heights may correspond to information indicating differences between the coordinates of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c in the picture. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit 620b at the center location by directly using the information about the locations or coordinates of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c in the picture, or by using the information about the widths or heights of the coding units, which correspond to the difference values between the coordinates.

[0100] According to an embodiment, information indicating the location of the upper-left sample 630a of the upper coding unit 620a may include coordinates (xa, ya), information indicating the location of the upper-left sample 630b of the middle coding unit 620b may include coordinates (xb, yb), and information indicating the location of the upper-left sample 630c of the lower coding unit 620c may include coordinates (xc, yc). The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the middle coding unit 620b by using the coordinates of the upper-left samples 630a, 630b, and 630c which are included in the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c, respectively. For example, when the coordinates of the upper-left samples 630a, 630b, and 630c are sorted in an ascending or descending order, the coding unit 620b including the coordinates (xb, yb) of the sample 630b at a center location may be determined as a coding unit at a center location from among the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c determined by splitting the current coding unit 600. However, the coordinates indicating the locations of the upper-left samples 630a, 630b, and 630c may include coordinates indicating absolute locations in the picture, or may use coordinates (dx_b, dy_b) indicating a relative location of the upper-left sample 630b of the middle coding unit 620b and coordinates (dx_c, dy_c) indicating a relative location of the upper-left sample 630c of the lower coding unit 620c with reference to the location of the upper-left sample 630a of the upper coding unit 620a. A method of determining a coding unit at a preset location by using coordinates of a sample included in the coding unit, as information indicating a location of the sample, is not limited to the above-described method, and may include various arithmetic methods capable of using the coordinates of the sample.

[0101] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the current coding unit 600 into a plurality of coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c, and may select one of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c based on a preset criterion. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may select the coding unit 620b, which has a size different from that of the others, from among the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c.

[0102] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width or height of each of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c by using the coordinates (xa, ya) that is the information indicating the location of the upper-left sample 630a of the upper coding unit 620a, the coordinates (xb, yb) that is the information indicating the location of the upper-left sample 630b of the middle coding unit 620b, and the coordinates (xc, yc) that is the information indicating the location of the upper-left sample 630c of the lower coding unit 620c. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the respective sizes of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c by using the coordinates (xa, ya), (xb, yb), and (xc, yc) indicating the locations of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width of the upper coding unit 620a to be the width of the current coding unit 600. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the height of the upper coding unit 620a to be y_b-y_a. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width of the middle coding unit 620b to be the width of the current coding unit 600. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the height of the middle coding unit 620b to be y_c-y_b. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width or height of the lower coding unit 620c by using the width or height of the current coding unit 600 or the widths or heights of the upper and middle coding units 620a and 620b. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a coding unit, which has a size different from that of the others, based on the determined widths and heights of the coding units 620a to 620c. Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the middle coding unit 620b, which has a size different from the size of the upper and lower coding units 620a and 620c, as the coding unit of the preset location. However, the above-described method, performed by the image decoding apparatus 100, of determining a coding unit having a size different from the size of the other coding units merely corresponds to an example of determining a coding unit at a preset location by using the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of samples, and thus various methods of determining a coding unit at a preset location by comparing the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of preset samples, may be used.

[0103] The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width or height of each of the coding units 660a, 660b, and 660c by using the coordinates (xd, yd) that is information indicating the location of an upper-left sample 670a of the left coding unit 660a, the coordinates (xe, ye) that is information indicating the location of an upper-left sample 670b of the middle coding unit 660b, and the coordinates (xf, yf) that is information indicating a location of the upper-left sample 670c of the right coding unit 660c. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the respective sizes of the coding units 660a, 660b, and 660c by using the coordinates (xd, yd), (xe, ye), and (xf, yf) indicating the locations of the coding units 660a, 660b, and 660c.

[0104] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width of the left coding unit 660a to be x_e-x_d. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the height of the left coding unit 660a to be the height of the current coding unit 650. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width of the middle coding unit 660b to be x_f-x_e. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the height of the middle coding

unit 660b to be the height of the current coding unit 650. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the width or height of the right coding unit 660c by using the width or height of the current coding unit 650 or the widths or heights of the left and middle coding units 660a and 660b. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a coding unit, which has a size different from that of the others, based on the determined widths and heights of the coding units 660a to 660c. Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the middle coding unit 660b, which has a size different from the sizes of the left and right coding units 660a and 660c, as the coding unit of the preset location. However, the above-described method, performed by the image decoding apparatus 100, of determining a coding unit having a size different from the size of the other coding units merely corresponds to an example of determining a coding unit at a preset location by using the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of samples, and thus various methods of determining a coding unit at a preset location by comparing the sizes of coding units, which are determined based on coordinates of preset samples, may be used.

[0105] However, locations of samples considered to determine locations of coding units are not limited to the above-described upper left locations, and information about arbitrary locations of samples included in the coding units may be used.

[0106] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may select a coding unit at a preset location from among an odd number of coding units determined by splitting the current coding unit, considering the shape of the current coding unit. For example, when the current coding unit has a non-square shape, a width of which is longer than a height, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit at the preset location in a horizontal direction. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine one of coding units at different locations in a horizontal direction and put a restriction on the coding unit. When the current coding unit has a non-square shape, a height of which is longer than a width, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit at the preset location in a vertical direction. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine one of coding units at different locations in a vertical direction and may put a restriction on the coding unit.

[0107] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use information indicating respective locations of an even number of coding units, to determine the coding unit at the preset location from among the even number of coding units. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine an even number of coding units by splitting (binary splitting) the current coding unit, and may determine the coding unit at the preset location by using the information about the locations of the even number of coding units. An operation related thereto may correspond to the operation of determining a coding unit at a preset location (e.g., a center location) from among an odd number of coding units, which has been described in detail above in relation to FIG. 6, and thus detailed descriptions thereof are not provided here.

[0108] According to an embodiment, when a non-square current coding unit is split into a plurality of coding units, preset information about a coding unit at a preset location may be used in a splitting operation to determine the coding unit at the preset location from among the plurality of coding units. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use at least one of block shape information and split shape mode information, which is stored in a sample included in a middle coding unit, in a splitting operation to determine a coding unit at a center location from among the plurality of coding units determined by splitting the current coding unit.

[0109] Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the current coding unit 600 into the plurality of coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c based on the split shape mode information, and may determine the coding unit 620b at a center location from among the plurality of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit 620b at the center location, in consideration of a location from which the split shape mode information is obtained. That is, the split shape mode information of the current coding unit 600 may be obtained from the sample 640 at a center location of the current coding unit 600 and, when the current coding unit 600 is split into the plurality of coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c based on the split shape mode information, the coding unit 620b including the sample 640 may be determined as the coding unit at the center location. However, information used to determine the coding unit at the center location is not limited to the split shape mode information, and various types of information may be used to determine the coding unit at the center location.

[0110] According to an embodiment, preset information for identifying the coding unit at the preset location may be obtained from a preset sample included in a coding unit to be determined. Referring to FIG. 6, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use the split shape mode information, which is obtained from a sample at a preset location in the current coding unit 600 (e.g., a sample at a center location of the current coding unit 600) to determine a coding unit at a preset location from among the plurality of the coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c determined by splitting the current coding unit 600 (e.g., a coding unit at a center location from among a plurality of split coding units). That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the sample at the preset location by considering a block shape of the current coding unit 600, determine the coding unit 620b including a sample, from which preset information (e.g., the split shape mode information) may be obtained, from among the plurality of coding units 620a, 620b, and 620c determined by splitting the current coding unit 600, and may put a preset restriction on the coding unit 620b. Referring to FIG. 6, according to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the sample 640 at the center location of the current coding unit 600 as the sample from which the preset information may be obtained, and may put a preset restriction on the coding unit 620b

including the sample 640, in a decoding operation. However, the location of the sample from which the preset information may be obtained is not limited to the above-described location, and may include arbitrary locations of samples included in the coding unit 620b to be determined for a restriction.

[0111] According to an embodiment, the location of the sample from which the preset information may be obtained may be determined based on the shape of the current coding unit 600. According to an embodiment, the block shape information may indicate whether the current coding unit has a square or non-square shape, and the location of the sample from which the preset information may be obtained may be determined based on the shape. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a sample located on a boundary for splitting at least one of a width and height of the current coding unit in half, as the sample from which the preset information may be obtained, by using at least one of information about the width of the current coding unit and information about the height of the current coding unit. As another example, when the block shape information of the current coding unit indicates a non-square shape, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine one of samples adjacent to a boundary for splitting a long side of the current coding unit in half, as the sample from which the preset information may be obtained.

[0112] According to an embodiment, when the current coding unit is split into a plurality of coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use the split shape mode information to determine a coding unit at a preset location from among the plurality of coding units. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the split shape mode information from a sample at a preset location in a coding unit, and split the plurality of coding units, which are generated by splitting the current coding unit, by using the split shape mode information, which is obtained from the sample of the preset location in each of the plurality of coding units. That is, a coding unit may be recursively split based on the split shape mode information, which is obtained from the sample at the preset location in each coding unit. An operation of recursively splitting a coding unit has been described above in relation to FIG. 5, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided here.

[0113] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine one or more coding units by splitting the current coding unit, and may determine an order of decoding the one or more coding units, based on a preset block (e.g., the current coding unit).

[0114] FIG. 7 illustrates an order of processing a plurality of coding units when an image decoding apparatus determines the plurality of coding units by splitting a current coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0115] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine second coding units 710a and 710b by splitting a first coding unit 700 in a vertical direction, determine second coding units 730a and 730b by splitting the first coding unit 700 in a horizontal direction, or determine second coding units 750a to 750d by splitting the first coding unit 700 in vertical and horizontal directions, based on split shape mode information.

[0116] Referring to FIG. 7, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine to process the second coding units 710a and 710b, which are determined by splitting the first coding unit 700 in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction order 710c. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine to process the second coding units 730a and 730b, which are determined by splitting the first coding unit 700 in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction order 730c. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the second coding units 750a to 750d, which are determined by splitting the first coding unit 700 in vertical and horizontal directions, according to a preset order (e.g., a raster scan order or Z-scan order 750e) by which coding units in a row are processed and then coding units in a next row are processed.

[0117] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may recursively split coding units. Referring to FIG. 7, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the plurality of coding units 710a and 710b, 730a and 730b, or 750a to 750d by splitting the first coding unit 700, and recursively split each of the determined plurality of coding units 710a, 710b, 730a, 730b, 750a, 750b, 750c, and 750d. A splitting method of the plurality of coding units 710a and 710b, 730a and 730b, or 750a to 750d may correspond to a splitting method of the first coding unit 700. As such, each of the plurality of coding units 710a and 710b, 730a and 730b, or 750a to 750d may be independently split into a plurality of coding units. Referring to FIG. 7, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the second coding units 710a and 710b by splitting the first coding unit 700 in a vertical direction, and may determine to independently split or not to split each of the second coding units 710a and 710b.

[0118] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine third coding units 720a and 720b by splitting the left second coding unit 710a in a horizontal direction, and may not split the right second coding unit 710b.

[0119] According to an embodiment, a processing order of coding units may be determined based on an operation of splitting a coding unit. In other words, a processing order of split coding units may be determined based on a processing order of coding units immediately before being split. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a processing order of the third coding units 720a and 720b determined by splitting the left second coding unit 710a, independently of the right second coding unit 710b. Because the third coding units 720a and 720b are determined by splitting the left second coding unit 710a in a horizontal direction, the third coding units 720a and 720b may be processed in a vertical direction order 720c. Because the left and right second coding units 710a and 710b are processed in the horizontal direction order 710c, the right second coding unit 710b may be processed after the third coding units 720a and 720b included in the left second coding

unit 710a are processed in the vertical direction order 720c. An operation of determining a processing order of coding units based on a coding unit before being split is not limited to the above-described example, and various methods may be used to independently process coding units, which are split and determined to various shapes, in a preset order.

[0120] FIG. 8 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining that a current coding unit is to be split into an odd number of coding units, when the coding units are not processable in a preset order, according to an embodiment.

[0121] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine that the current coding unit is split into an odd number of coding units, based on obtained split shape mode information. Referring to FIG. 8, a square first coding unit 800 may be split into non-square second coding units 810a and 810b, and the second coding units 810a and 810b may be independently split into third coding units 820a and 820b, and 820c to 820e. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the plurality of third coding units 820a and 820b by splitting the left second coding unit 810a in a horizontal direction, and may split the right second coding unit 810b into the odd number of third coding units 820c to 820e.

[0122] According to an embodiment, the video decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether any coding unit is split into an odd number of coding units, by determining whether the third coding units 820a and 820b, and 820c to 820e are processable in a preset order. Referring to FIG. 8, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding units 820a and 820b, and 820c to 820e by recursively splitting the first coding unit 800. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether any of the first coding unit 800, the second coding units 810a and 810b, or the third coding units 820a and 820b, and 820c to 820e are split into an odd number of coding units, based on at least one of the block shape information and the split shape mode information. For example, a coding unit located in the right from among the second coding units 810a and 810b may be split into an odd number of third coding units 820c, 820d, and 820e. A processing order of a plurality of coding units included in the first coding unit 800 may be a preset order (e.g., a Z-scan order 830), and the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether the third coding units 820c, 820d, and 820e, which are determined by splitting the right second coding unit 810b into an odd number of coding units, satisfy a condition for processing in the preset order.

[0123] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether the third coding units 820a and 820b, and 820c to 820e included in the first coding unit 800 satisfy the condition for processing in the preset order, and the condition relates to whether at least one of a width and height of the second coding units 810a and 810b is to be split in half along a boundary of the third coding units 820a and 820b, and 820c to 820e. For example, the third coding units 820a and 820b determined when the height of the left second coding unit 810a of the non-square shape is split in half may satisfy the condition. It may be determined that the third coding units 820c to 820e do not satisfy the condition because the boundaries of the third coding units 820c to 820e determined when the right second coding unit 810b is split into three coding units are unable to split the width or height of the right second coding unit 810b in half. When the condition is not satisfied as described above, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine disconnection of a scan order, and may determine that the right second coding unit 810b is to be split into an odd number of coding units, based on a result of the determination. According to an embodiment, when a coding unit is split into an odd number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may put a preset restriction on a coding unit at a preset location from among the split coding units. The restriction or the preset location has been described above in relation to various embodiments, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0124] FIG. 9 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of determining at least one coding unit by splitting a first coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0125] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the first coding unit 900, based on split shape mode information, which is obtained through the receiver 110. The square first coding unit 900 may be split into four square coding units, or may be split into a plurality of non-square coding units. For example, referring to FIG. 9, when the first coding unit 900 has a square shape and the split shape mode information indicates to split the first coding unit 900 into non-square coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the first coding unit 900 into a plurality of non-square coding units. In detail, when the split shape mode information indicates to determine an odd number of coding units by splitting the first coding unit 900 in a horizontal direction or a vertical direction, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the square first coding unit 900 into an odd number of coding units, e.g., second coding units 910a, 910b, and 910c determined by splitting the square first coding unit 900 in a vertical direction or second coding units 920a, 920b, and 920c determined by splitting the square first coding unit 900 in a horizontal direction.

[0126] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether the second coding units 910a, 910b, 910c, 920a, 920b, and 920c included in the first coding unit 900 satisfy a condition for processing in a preset order, and the condition relates to whether at least one of a width and height of the first coding unit 900 is to be split in half along a boundary of the second coding units 910a, 910b, 910c, 920a, 920b, and 920c. Referring to FIG. 9, because boundaries of the second coding units 910a, 910b, and 910c determined by splitting the square first coding unit 900 in a vertical direction do not split the height of the first coding unit 900 in half, it may be determined that the first coding unit 900 does not satisfy the condition for processing in the preset order. Also, because boundaries of the second coding units 920a,

920b, and 920c determined by splitting the square first coding unit 900 in a horizontal direction do not split the width of the first coding unit 900 in half, it may be determined that the first coding unit 900 does not satisfy the condition for processing in the preset order. When the condition is not satisfied as described above, the image decoding apparatus 100 may decide disconnection of a scan order, and may determine that the first coding unit 900 is to be split into an odd number of coding units, based on a result of the decision. According to an embodiment, when a coding unit is split into an odd number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may put a preset restriction on a coding unit at a preset location from among the split coding units. The restriction or the preset location has been described above in relation to various embodiments, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0127] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine various-shaped coding units by splitting a first coding unit.

[0128] Referring to FIG. 9, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the square first coding unit 900 or a non-square first coding unit 930 or 950 into various-shaped coding units.

[0129] FIG. 10 illustrates that a shape into which a second coding unit is splittable is restricted when the second coding unit having a non-square shape, which is determined when an image decoding apparatus splits a first coding unit, satisfies a preset condition, according to an embodiment.

[0130] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine to split the square first coding unit 1000 into non-square second coding units 1010a, and 1010b or 1020a and 1020b, based on split shape mode information, which is obtained by the receiver 110. The second coding units 1010a and 1010b, or 1020a and 1020b may be independently split. As such, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine to split or not to split each of the second coding units 1010a and 1010b, or 1020a and 1020b into a plurality of coding units, based on the split shape mode information of each of the second coding units 1010a and 1010b, or 1020a and 1020b. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine third coding units 1012a and 1012b by splitting the non-square left second coding unit 1010a, which is determined by splitting the first coding unit 1000 in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction. However, when the left second coding unit 1010a is split in a horizontal direction, the image decoding apparatus 100 may restrict the right second coding unit 1010b to not be split in a horizontal direction in which the left second coding unit 1010a is split. When third coding units 1014a and 1014b are determined by splitting the right second coding unit 1010b in a same direction, because the left and right second coding units 1010a and 1010b are independently split in a horizontal direction, the third coding units 1012a and 1012b, or 1014a and 1014b may be determined. However, this case serves equally as a case in which the image decoding apparatus 100 splits the first coding unit 1000 into four square second coding units 1030a, 1030b, 1030c, and 1030d, based on the split shape mode information, and may be inefficient in terms of image decoding.

[0131] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine third coding units 1022a and 1022b, or 1024a and 1024b by splitting the non-square second coding unit 1020a or 1020b, which is determined by splitting the first coding unit 1000 in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction. However, when a second coding unit (e.g., the upper second coding unit 1020a) is split in a vertical direction, for the above-described reason, the image decoding apparatus 100 may restrict the other second coding unit (e.g., the lower second coding unit 1020b) to not be split in a vertical direction in which the upper second coding unit 1020a is split.

[0132] FIG. 11 illustrates a process, performed by an image decoding apparatus, of splitting a square coding unit when split shape mode information indicates that the square coding unit is not to be split into four square coding units, according to an embodiment.

[0133] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine second coding units 1110a and 1110b, or 1120a and 1120b, etc. by splitting a first coding unit 1100, based on split shape mode information. The split shape mode information may include information about various methods of splitting a coding unit but, the information about various splitting methods may not include information for splitting a coding unit into four square coding units. According to such split shape mode information, the image decoding apparatus 100 may not split the square first coding unit 1100 into four square second coding units 1130a, 1130b, 1130c, and 1130d. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the non-square second coding units 1110a and 1110b, or 1120a and 1120b, etc., based on the split shape mode information.

[0134] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may independently split the non-square second coding units 1110a and 1110b, or 1120a and 1120b, etc. Each of the second coding units 1110a and 1110b, or 1120a and 1120b, etc. may be recursively split in a preset order, and this splitting method may correspond to a method of splitting the first coding unit 1100, based on the split shape mode information.

[0135] For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine square third coding units 1112a and 1112b by splitting the left second coding unit 1110a in a horizontal direction, and may determine square third coding units 1114a and 1114b by splitting the right second coding unit 1110b in a horizontal direction. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine square third coding units 1116a, 1116b, 1116c, and 1116d by splitting both of the left and right second coding units 1110a and 1110b in a horizontal direction. In this case, coding units having the same shape as the four square second coding units 1130a, 1130b, 1130c, and 1130d split from the first coding unit 1100 may be determined.

[0136] As another example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine square third coding units 1122a and

1122b by splitting the upper second coding unit 1120a in a vertical direction, and may determine square third coding units 1124a and 1124b by splitting the lower second coding unit 1120b in a vertical direction. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine square third coding units 1126a, 1126b, 1126c, and 1126d by splitting both of the upper and lower second coding units 1120a and 1120b in a vertical direction. In this case, coding units having the same shape as the four square second coding units 1130a, 1130b, 1130c, and 1130d split from the first coding unit 1100 may be determined.

[0137] FIG. 12 illustrates that a processing order between a plurality of coding units may be changed depending on a process of splitting a coding unit, according to an embodiment.

[0138] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split a first coding unit 1200, based on split shape mode information. When a block shape indicates a square shape and the split shape mode information indicates to split the first coding unit 1200 in at least one of horizontal and vertical directions, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine second coding units 1210a and 1210b, or 1220a and 1220b, etc. by splitting the first coding unit 1200. Referring to FIG. 12, the non-square second coding units 1210a and 1210b, or 1220a and 1220b determined by splitting the first coding unit 1200 in only a horizontal direction or vertical direction may be independently split based on the split shape mode information of each coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine third coding units 1216a, 1216b, 1216c, and 1216d by splitting the second coding units 1210a and 1210b, which are generated by splitting the first coding unit 1200 in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction, and may determine third coding units 1226a, 1226b, 1226c, and 1226d by splitting the second coding units 1220a and 1220b, which are generated by splitting the first coding unit 1200 in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction. An operation of splitting the second coding units 1210a and 1210b, or 1220a and 1220b has been described above in relation to FIG. 11, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0139] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may process coding units in a preset order. An operation of processing coding units in a preset order has been described above in relation to FIG. 7, and thus detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein. Referring to FIG. 12, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine four square third coding units 1216a, 1216b, 1216c, and 1216d, and 1226a, 1226b, 1226c, and 1226d by splitting the square first coding unit 1200. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine processing orders of the third coding units 1216a, 1216b, 1216c, and 1216d, and 1226a, 1226b, 1226c, and 1226d based on a split shape by which the first coding unit 1200 is split.

[0140] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding units 1216a, 1216b, 1216c, and 1216d by splitting the second coding units 1210a and 1210b generated by splitting the first coding unit 1200 in a vertical direction, in a horizontal direction, and may process the third coding units 1216a, 1216b, 1216c, and 1216d in a processing order 1217 for initially processing the third coding units 1216a and 1216c, which are included in the left second coding unit 1210a, in a vertical direction and then processing the third coding unit 1216b and 1216d, which are included in the right second coding unit 1210b, in a vertical direction.

[0141] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding units 1226a, 1226b, 1226c, and 1226d by splitting the second coding units 1220a and 1220b generated by splitting the first coding unit 1200 in a horizontal direction, in a vertical direction, and may process the third coding units 1226a, 1226b, 1226c, and 1226d in a processing order 1227 for initially processing the third coding units 1226a and 1226b, which are included in the upper second coding unit 1220a, in a horizontal direction and then processing the third coding unit 1226c and 1226d, which are included in the lower second coding unit 1220b, in a horizontal direction.

[0142] Referring to FIG. 12, the square third coding units 1216a, 1216b, 1216c, and 1216d, and 1226a, 1226b, 1226c, and 1226d may be determined by splitting the second coding units 1210a and 1210b, and 1220a and 1220b, respectively. Although the second coding units 1210a and 1210b are determined by splitting the first coding unit 1200 in a vertical direction differently from the second coding units 1220a and 1220b which are determined by splitting the first coding unit 1200 in a horizontal direction, the third coding units 1216a, 1216b, 1216c, and 1216d, and 1226a, 1226b, 1226c, and 1226d split therefrom eventually show same-shaped coding units split from the first coding unit 1200. As such, by recursively splitting a coding unit in different manners based on the split shape mode information, the image decoding apparatus 100 may process a plurality of coding units in different orders even when the coding units are eventually determined to be the same shape.

[0143] FIG. 13 illustrates a process of determining a depth of a coding unit as a shape and size of the coding unit change, when the coding unit is recursively split such that a plurality of coding units are determined, according to an embodiment.

[0144] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the depth of the coding unit, based on a preset criterion. For example, the preset criterion may be the length of a long side of the coding unit. When the length of a long side of a coding unit before being split is $2n$ times ($n > 0$) the length of a long side of a split current coding unit, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine that a depth of the current coding unit is increased from a depth of the coding unit before being split, by n . In the following description, a coding unit having an increased depth is expressed as a coding unit of a deeper depth.

[0145] Referring to FIG. 13, according to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a second coding unit 1302 and a third coding unit 1304 of deeper depths by splitting a square first coding unit 1300 based on block

shape information indicating a square shape (e.g., the block shape information may be expressed as '0: SQUARE'). Assuming that the size of the square first coding unit 1300 is $2N \times 2N$, the second coding unit 1302 determined by splitting a width and height of the first coding unit 1300 in $1/2$ may have a size of $N \times N$. Furthermore, the third coding unit 1304 determined by splitting a width and height of the second coding unit 1302 in $1/2$ may have a size of $N/2 \times N/2$. In this case, a width and height of the third coding unit 1304 are $1/4$ times those of the first coding unit 1300. When a depth of the first coding unit 1300 is D , a depth of the second coding unit 1302, the width and height of which are $1/2$ times those of the first coding unit 1300, may be $D+1$, and a depth of the third coding unit 1304, the width and height of which are $1/4$ times those of the first coding unit 1300, may be $D+2$.

[0146] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a second coding unit 1312 or 1322 and a third coding unit 1314 or 1324 of deeper depths by splitting a non-square first coding unit 1310 or 1320 based on block shape information indicating a non-square shape (e.g., the block shape information may be expressed as '1: NS_VER' indicating a non-square shape, a height of which is longer than a width, or as '2: NS_HOR' indicating a non-square shape, a width of which is longer than a height).

[0147] The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a second coding unit 1302, 1312, or 1322 by splitting at least one of a width and height of the first coding unit 1310 having a size of $N \times 2N$. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the second coding unit 1302 having a size of $N \times N$ or the second coding unit 1322 having a size of $N \times N/2$ by splitting the first coding unit 1310 in a horizontal direction, or may determine the second coding unit 1312 having a size of $N/2 \times N$ by splitting the first coding unit 1310 in horizontal and vertical directions.

[0148] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the second coding unit 1302, 1312, or 1322 by splitting at least one of a width and height of the first coding unit 1320 having a size of $2N \times N$. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the second coding unit 1302 having a size of $N \times N$ or the second coding unit 1312 having a size of $N/2 \times N$ by splitting the first coding unit 1320 in a vertical direction, or may determine the second coding unit 1322 having a size of $N \times N/2$ by splitting the first coding unit 1320 in horizontal and vertical directions.

[0149] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a third coding unit 1304, 1314, or 1324 by splitting at least one of a width and height of the second coding unit 1302 having a size of $N \times N$. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding unit 1304 having a size of $N/2 \times N/2$, the third coding unit 1314 having a size of $N/4 \times N/2$, or the third coding unit 1324 having a size of $N/2 \times N/4$ by splitting the second coding unit 1302 in vertical and horizontal directions.

[0150] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding unit 1304, 1314, or 1324 by splitting at least one of a width and height of the second coding unit 1312 having a size of $N/2 \times N$. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding unit 1304 having a size of $N/2 \times N/2$ or the third coding unit 1324 having a size of $N/2 \times N/4$ by splitting the second coding unit 1312 in a horizontal direction, or may determine the third coding unit 1314 having a size of $N/4 \times N/2$ by splitting the second coding unit 1312 in vertical and horizontal directions.

[0151] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding unit 1304, 1314, or 1324 by splitting at least one of a width and height of the second coding unit 1322 having a size of $N \times N/2$. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the third coding unit 1304 having a size of $N/2 \times N/2$ or the third coding unit 1314 having a size of $N/4 \times N/2$ by splitting the second coding unit 1322 in a vertical direction, or may determine the third coding unit 1324 having a size of $N/2 \times N/4$ by splitting the second coding unit 1322 in vertical and horizontal directions.

[0152] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the square coding unit 1300, 1302, or 1304 in a horizontal or vertical direction. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the first coding unit 1310 having a size of $N \times 2N$ by splitting the first coding unit 1300 having a size of $2N \times 2N$ in a vertical direction, or may determine the first coding unit 1320 having a size of $2N \times N$ by splitting the first coding unit 1300 in a horizontal direction. According to an embodiment, when a depth is determined based on the length of the longest side of a coding unit, a depth of a coding unit determined by splitting the first coding unit 1300 having a size of $2N \times 2N$ in a horizontal or vertical direction may be the same as the depth of the first coding unit 1300.

[0153] According to an embodiment, a width and height of the third coding unit 1314 or 1324 may be $1/4$ times those of the first coding unit 1310 or 1320. When a depth of the first coding unit 1310 or 1320 is D , a depth of the second coding unit 1312 or 1322, the width and height of which are $1/2$ times those of the first coding unit 1310 or 1320, may be $D+1$, and a depth of the third coding unit 1314 or 1324, the width and height of which are $1/4$ times those of the first coding unit 1310 or 1320, may be $D+2$.

[0154] FIG. 14 illustrates depths that are determinable based on shapes and sizes of coding units, and part indexes (PIDs) that are for distinguishing the coding units, according to an embodiment.

[0155] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine various-shape second coding units by splitting a square first coding unit 1400. Referring to FIG. 14, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine second coding units 1402a and 1402b, 1404a and 1404b, and 1406a, 1406b, 1406c, and 1406d by splitting the first coding unit 1400 in at least one of vertical and horizontal directions based on split shape mode information. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the second coding units 1402a and 1402b, 1404a and 1404b, and 1406a, 1406b, 1406c, and 1406d, based on the split shape mode information of the first coding unit 1400.

[0156] According to an embodiment, depths of the second coding units 1402a and 1402b, 1404a and 1404b, and 1406a, 1406b, 1406c, and 1406d that are determined based on the split shape mode information of the square first coding unit 1400 may be determined based on the length of a long side thereof. For example, because the length of a side of the square first coding unit 1400 equals the length of a long side of the non-square second coding units 1402a and 1402b, and 1404a and 1404b, the first coding unit 1400 and the non-square second coding units 1402a and 1402b, and 1404a and 1404b may have the same depth, e.g., D. However, when the image decoding apparatus 100 splits the first coding unit 1400 into the four square second coding units 1406a, 1406b, 1406c, and 1406d based on the split shape mode information, because the length of a side of the square second coding units 1406a, 1406b, 1406c, and 1406d is 1/2 times the length of a side of the first coding unit 1400, a depth of the second coding units 1406a, 1406b, 1406c, and 1406d may be D+1 which is deeper than the depth D of the first coding unit 1400 by 1.

[0157] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a plurality of second coding units 1412a and 1412b, and 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c by splitting a first coding unit 1410, a height of which is longer than a width, in a horizontal direction based on the split shape mode information. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a plurality of second coding units 1422a and 1422b, and 1424a, 1424b, and 1424c by splitting a first coding unit 1420, a width of which is longer than a height, in a vertical direction based on the split shape mode information.

[0158] According to an embodiment, a depth of the second coding units 1412a and 1412b, and 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c, or 1422a and 1422b, and 1424a, 1424b, and 1424c, which are determined based on the split shape mode information of the non-square first coding unit 1410 or 1420, may be determined based on the length of a long side thereof. For example, because the length of a side of the square second coding units 1412a and 1412b is 1/2 times the length of a long side of the first coding unit 1410 having a non-square shape, a height of which is longer than a width, a depth of the square second coding units 1412a and 1412b is D+1 which is deeper than the depth D of the non-square first coding unit 1410 by 1.

[0159] Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the non-square first coding unit 1410 into an odd number of second coding units 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c based on the split shape mode information. The odd number of second coding units 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c may include the non-square second coding units 1414a and 1414c and the square second coding unit 1414b. In this case, because the length of a long side of the non-square second coding units 1414a and 1414c and the length of a side of the square second coding unit 1414b are 1/2 times the length of a long side of the first coding unit 1410, a depth of the second coding units 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c may be D+1 which is deeper than the depth D of the non-square first coding unit 1410 by 1. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine depths of coding units split from the first coding unit 1420 having a non-square shape, a width of which is longer than a height, by using the above-described method of determining depths of coding units split from the first coding unit 1410.

[0160] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine PIDs for identifying split coding units, based on a size ratio between the coding units when an odd number of split coding units do not have equal sizes. Referring to FIG. 14, a coding unit 1414b of a center location among an odd number of split coding units 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c may have a width equal to that of the other coding units 1414a and 1414c and a height which is two times that of the other coding units 1414a and 1414c. That is, in this case, the coding unit 1414b at the center location may include two of the other coding unit 1414a or 1414c. Therefore, when a PID of the coding unit 1414b at the center location is 1 based on a scan order, a PID of the coding unit 1414c located next to the coding unit 1414b may be increased by 2 and thus may be 3. That is, discontinuity in PID values may be present. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether an odd number of split coding units do not have equal sizes, based on whether discontinuity is present in PIDs for identifying the split coding units.

[0161] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether to use a specific splitting method, based on PID values for identifying a plurality of coding units determined by splitting a current coding unit. Referring to FIG. 14, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine an even number of coding units 1412a and 1412b or an odd number of coding units 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c by splitting the first coding unit 1410 having a rectangular shape, a height of which is longer than a width. The image decoding apparatus 100 may use PIDs indicating respective coding units so as to identify the respective coding units. According to an embodiment, the PID may be obtained from a sample at a preset location of each coding unit (e.g., an upper-left sample).

[0162] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a coding unit at a preset location from among the split coding units, by using the PIDs for distinguishing the coding units. According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information of the first coding unit 1410 having a rectangular shape, a height of which is longer than a width, indicates to split a coding unit into three coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the first coding unit 1410 into three coding units 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c. The image decoding apparatus 100 may assign a PID to each of the three coding units 1414a, 1414b, and 1414c. The image decoding apparatus 100 may compare PIDs of an odd number of split coding units to determine a coding unit at a center location from among the coding units. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit 1414b having a PID corresponding to a middle value among the PIDs of the coding units, as the coding unit at the center location from among the coding units determined by splitting the

first coding unit 1410. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine PIDs for distinguishing split coding units, based on a size ratio between the coding units when the split coding units do not have equal sizes. Referring to FIG. 14, the coding unit 1414b generated by splitting the first coding unit 1410 may have a width equal to that of the other coding units 1414a and 1414c and a height which is two times that of the other coding units 1414a and 1414c. In this case, when the PID of the coding unit 1414b at the center location is 1, the PID of the coding unit 1414c located next to the coding unit 1414b may be increased by 2 and thus may be 3. When the PID is not uniformly increased as described above, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine that a coding unit is split into a plurality of coding units including a coding unit having a size different from that of the other coding units. According to an embodiment, when the split shape mode information indicates to split a coding unit into an odd number of coding units, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split a current coding unit in such a manner that a coding unit of a preset location among an odd number of coding units (e.g., a coding unit of a center location) has a size different from that of the other coding units. In this case, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the coding unit of the center location, which has a different size, by using PIDs of the coding units. However, the PIDs and the size or location of the coding unit of the preset location are not limited to the above-described examples, and various PIDs and various locations and sizes of coding units may be used.

[0163] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use a preset data unit where a coding unit starts to be recursively split.

[0164] FIG. 15 illustrates that a plurality of coding units are determined based on a plurality of preset data units included in a picture, according to an embodiment.

[0165] According to an embodiment, a preset data unit may be defined as a data unit where a coding unit starts to be recursively split by using split shape mode information. That is, the preset data unit may correspond to a coding unit of an uppermost depth, which is used to determine a plurality of coding units split from a current picture. In the following descriptions, for convenience of explanation, the preset data unit is referred to as a reference data unit.

[0166] According to an embodiment, the reference data unit may have a preset size and a preset shape. According to an embodiment, a reference coding unit may include $M \times N$ samples. Herein, M and N may be equal to each other, and may be integers expressed as powers of 2. That is, the reference data unit may have a square or non-square shape, and may be split into an integer number of coding units.

[0167] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the current picture into a plurality of reference data units. According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may split the plurality of reference data units, which are split from the current picture, by using the split shape mode information of each reference data unit.

The operation of splitting the reference data unit may correspond to a splitting operation using a quadtree structure.

[0168] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may previously determine the minimum size allowed for the reference data units included in the current picture. Accordingly, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine various reference data units having sizes equal to or greater than the minimum size, and may determine one or more coding units by using the split shape mode information with reference to the determined reference data unit.

[0169] Referring to FIG. 15, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use a square reference coding unit 1500 or a non-square reference coding unit 1502. According to an embodiment, the shape and size of reference coding units may be determined based on various data units capable of including one or more reference coding units (e.g., sequences, pictures, slices, slice segments, tiles, tile groups, largest coding units, or the like).

[0170] According to an embodiment, the receiver 110 of the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain, from a bitstream, at least one of reference coding unit shape information and reference coding unit size information with respect to each of the various data units. An operation of splitting the square reference coding unit 1500 into one or more coding units has been described above in relation to the operation of splitting the current coding unit 300 of FIG. 3, and an operation of splitting the non-square reference coding unit 1502 into one or more coding units has been described above in relation to the operation of splitting the current coding unit 400 or 450 of FIG. 4. Thus, detailed descriptions thereof will not be provided herein.

[0171] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use a PID for identifying the size and shape of reference coding units, to determine the size and shape of reference coding units according to some data units previously determined based on a preset condition. That is, the receiver 110 may obtain, from the bitstream, only the PID for identifying the size and shape of reference coding units with respect to each slice, slice segment, tile, tile group, or largest coding unit which is a data unit satisfying a preset condition (e.g., a data unit having a size equal to or smaller than a slice) among the various data units (e.g., sequences, pictures, slices, slice segments, tiles, tile groups, largest coding units, or the like). The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size and shape of reference data units with respect to each data unit, which satisfies the preset condition, by using the PID. When the reference coding unit shape information and the reference coding unit size information are obtained and used from the bitstream according to each data unit having a relatively small size, efficiency of using the bitstream may not be high, and therefore, only the PID may be obtained and used instead of directly obtaining the reference coding unit shape information and the reference coding unit size information. In this case, at least one of the size and shape of reference coding units corresponding to the PID for identifying the size and shape of reference coding units may be previously determined. That is, the image decoding

apparatus 100 may determine at least one of the size and shape of reference coding units included in a data unit serving as a unit for obtaining the PID, by selecting the previously determined at least one of the size and shape of reference coding units based on the PID.

[0172] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use one or more reference coding units included in a largest coding unit. That is, a largest coding unit split from a picture may include one or more reference coding units, and coding units may be determined by recursively splitting each reference coding unit. According to an embodiment, at least one of a width and height of the largest coding unit may be integer times at least one of the width and height of the reference coding units. According to an embodiment, the size of reference coding units may be obtained by splitting the largest coding unit n times based on a quadtree structure. That is, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the reference coding units by splitting the largest coding unit n times based on a quadtree structure, and may split the reference coding unit based on at least one of the block shape information and the split shape mode information according to various embodiments.

[0173] FIG. 16 illustrates a processing block serving as a unit for determining a determination order of reference coding units included in a picture, according to an embodiment.

[0174] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine one or more processing blocks split from a picture. The processing block is a data unit including one or more reference coding units split from a picture, and the one or more reference coding units included in the processing block may be determined according to a specific order. That is, a determination order of one or more reference coding units determined in each processing block may correspond to one of various types of orders for determining reference coding units, and may vary depending on the processing block. The determination order of reference coding units, which is determined with respect to each processing block, may be one of various orders, e.g., raster scan order, Z-scan, N-scan, up-right diagonal scan, horizontal scan, and vertical scan, but is not limited to the above-mentioned scan orders.

[0175] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain processing block size information and may determine the size of one or more processing blocks included in the picture. The image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the processing block size information from a bitstream and may determine the size of one or more processing blocks included in the picture. The size of processing blocks may be a preset size of data units, which is indicated by the processing block size information.

[0176] According to an embodiment, the receiver 110 of the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain the processing block size information from the bitstream according to each specific data unit. For example, the processing block size information may be obtained from the bitstream in a data unit such as an image, sequence, picture, slice, slice segment, tile, or tile group. That is, the receiver 110 may obtain the processing block size information from the bitstream according to each of the various data units, and the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of one or more processing blocks, which are split from the picture, by using the obtained processing block size information. The size of the processing blocks may be integer times that of the reference coding units.

[0177] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of processing blocks 1602 and 1612 included in the picture 1600. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the size of processing blocks based on the processing block size information obtained from the bitstream. Referring to FIG. 16, according to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a width of the processing blocks 1602 and 1612 to be four times the width of the reference coding units, and may determine a height of the processing blocks 1602 and 1612 to be four times the height of the reference coding units. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a determination order of one or more reference coding units in one or more processing blocks.

[0178] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the processing blocks 1602 and 1612, which are included in the picture 1600, based on the size of processing blocks, and may determine a determination order of one or more reference coding units in the processing blocks 1602 and 1612. According to an embodiment, determination of reference coding units may include determination of the size of the reference coding units.

[0179] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain, from the bitstream, determination order information of one or more reference coding units included in one or more processing blocks, and may determine a determination order with respect to one or more reference coding units based on the obtained determination order information. The determination order information may be defined as an order or direction for determining the reference coding units in the processing block. That is, the determination order of reference coding units may be independently determined with respect to each processing block.

[0180] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain, from the bitstream, the determination order information of reference coding units according to each specific data unit. For example, the receiver 110 may obtain the determination order information of reference coding units from the bitstream according to each data unit such as an image, sequence, picture, slice, slice segment, tile, tile group, or processing block. Because the determination order information of reference coding units indicates an order for determining reference coding units in a processing block, the determination order information may be obtained with respect to each specific data unit including an integer number of processing blocks.

[0181] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine one or more reference coding units based on the determined determination order.

[0182] According to an embodiment, the receiver 110 may obtain the determination order information of reference coding units from the bitstream as information related to the processing blocks 1602 and 1612, and the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a determination order of one or more reference coding units included in the processing blocks 1602 and 1612 and determine one or more reference coding units, which are included in the picture 1600, based on the determination order. Referring to FIG. 16, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine determination orders 1604 and 1614 of one or more reference coding units in the processing blocks 1602 and 1612, respectively. For example, when the determination order information of reference coding units is obtained with respect to each processing block, different types of the determination order information of reference coding units may be obtained for the processing blocks 1602 and 1612. When the determination order 1604 of reference coding units in the processing block 1602 is a raster scan order, reference coding units included in the processing block 1602 may be determined according to a raster scan order. On the contrary, when the determination order 1614 of reference coding units in the other processing block 1612 is a backward raster scan order, reference coding units included in the processing block 1612 may be determined according to the backward raster scan order.

[0183] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may decode the determined one or more reference coding units. The image decoding apparatus 100 may decode an image, based on the reference coding units determined as described above. A method of decoding the reference coding units may include various image decoding methods.

[0184] According to an embodiment, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain block shape information indicating the shape of a current coding unit or split shape mode information indicating a splitting method of the current coding unit, from the bitstream, and may use the obtained information. The split shape mode information may be included in the bitstream related to various data units. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may use the split shape mode information included in a sequence parameter set, a picture parameter set, a video parameter set, a slice header, a slice segment header, a tile header, or a tile group header. Furthermore, the image decoding apparatus 100 may obtain, from the bitstream, a syntax element corresponding to the block shape information or the split shape mode information according to each largest coding unit, each reference coding unit, or each processing block, and may use the obtained syntax element.

[0185] Hereinafter, a method of determining a split rule, according to an embodiment of the disclosure will be described in detail.

[0186] The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a split rule of an image. The split rule may be predetermined between the image decoding apparatus 100 and the image encoding apparatus 2200. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the split rule of the image, based on information obtained from a bitstream. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the split rule based on the information obtained from at least one of a sequence parameter set, a picture parameter set, a video parameter set, a slice header, a slice segment header, a tile header, and a tile group header. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the split rule differently according to frames, slices, tiles, temporal layers, largest coding units, or coding units.

[0187] The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the split rule based on a block shape of a coding unit. The block shape may include a size, shape, a ratio of width and height, and a direction of the coding unit. The image encoding apparatus 2200 and the image decoding apparatus 100 may predetermine to determine the split rule based on the block shape of the coding unit. However, the embodiment is not limited thereto. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the split rule based on the information obtained from the bitstream received from the image encoding apparatus 2200.

[0188] The shape of the coding unit may include a square and a non-square. When the lengths of the width and height of the coding unit are the same, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the shape of the coding unit to be a square. Also, when the lengths of the width and height of the coding unit are not the same, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the shape of the coding unit to be a non-square.

[0189] The size of the coding unit may include various sizes, such as 4x4, 8x4, 4x8, 8x8, 16x4, 16x8, and to 256x256. The size of the coding unit may be classified based on the length of a long side of the coding unit, the length of a short side, or the area. The image decoding apparatus 100 may apply the same split rule to coding units classified as the same group. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may classify coding units having the same lengths of the long sides as having the same size. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may apply the same split rule to coding units having the same lengths of long sides.

[0190] The ratio of the width and height of the coding unit may include 1:2, 2:1, 1:4, 4:1, 1:8, 8:1, 1:16, 16:1, 32:1, 1:32, or the like. Also, a direction of the coding unit may include a horizontal direction and a vertical direction. The horizontal direction may indicate a case in which the length of the width of the coding unit is longer than the length of the height thereof. The vertical direction may indicate a case in which the length of the width of the coding unit is shorter than the length of the height thereof.

[0191] The image decoding apparatus 100 may adaptively determine the split rule based on the size of the coding unit. The image decoding apparatus 100 may differently determine an allowable split shape mode based on the size of the coding unit. For example, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine whether splitting is allowed based on the size of the coding unit. The image decoding apparatus 100 may determine a split direction according to the size of the coding unit.

[0192] The split rule determined based on the size of the coding unit may be a split rule predetermined between the image encoding apparatus 2200 and the image decoding apparatus 100. Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the split rule based on the information obtained from the bitstream.

[0193] The image decoding apparatus 100 may adaptively determine the split rule based on a location of the coding unit. The image decoding apparatus 100 may adaptively determine the split rule based on the location of the coding unit in the image.

[0194] Also, the image decoding apparatus 100 may determine the split rule such that coding units generated via different splitting paths do not have the same block shape. However, an embodiment is not limited thereto, and the coding units generated via different splitting paths have the same block shape. The coding units generated via the different splitting paths may have different decoding processing orders. Because the decoding processing orders have been described above with reference to FIG. 12, details thereof are not provided again.

[0195] Hereinafter, a video encoding or decoding method and apparatus will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 17 to 20, according to an embodiment of the disclosure, in which whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block is determined, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, an upper reference line of the current block is determined as one reference line, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the upper reference line of the current block is determined based on N reference lines, and prediction on the current block is performed based on the determined upper reference line.

[0196] FIG. 17 illustrates a block diagram of a video encoding apparatus according to an embodiment.

[0197] A video encoding apparatus 1700 according to an embodiment may include a memory 1710 and at least one processor 1720 connected to the memory 1710. The operations of the video encoding apparatus 1700 according to the embodiment may be performed as individual processors or may be performed under the control of a central processor. Also, the memory 1710 of the video encoding apparatus 1700 may store data received from the outside, data generated by a processor, for example, information about an upper reference line of a current block, etc.

[0198] The processor 1720 of the video encoding apparatus 1700 may be configured to determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines, and based on the determined upper reference line, perform prediction on the current block.

[0199] Hereinafter, specific operations of a video encoding method will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 18, in which the video encoding apparatus 1700 according to the embodiment is configured to determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines, and based on the determined upper reference line, perform prediction on the current block.

[0200] FIG. 18 illustrates a flowchart of a video encoding method according to an embodiment.

[0201] Referring to FIG. 18, in operation S1810, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block.

[0202] In operation S1830, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line.

[0203] According to an embodiment, the one reference line may be a reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block.

[0204] In operation S1850, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines. Here, N is a natural number.

[0205] According to an embodiment, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may generate reference line information indicating a value of N.

[0206] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the reference line information may not be generated.

[0207] According to an embodiment, the value of N is determined through calculation of sum of transform difference

(SATD) or rate distortion optimization (RDO), and thus the reference line information indicating N may be encoded.

[0208] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 1, the upper reference line may be determined as a first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block.

[0209] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 2, the upper reference line may include the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block and a second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line.

[0210] According to another embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 2, the upper reference line may be determined as the second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block. That is, when N is 2, a reference line located second on the upper side of the current block may be determined as the upper reference line.

[0211] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 3, the upper reference line may include the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block, the second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line, and a fourth reference line in contact with the upper side of a third reference line in contact with the upper side of the second reference line.

[0212] According to another embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 3, the upper reference line may be determined as the fourth reference line in contact with the upper side of the third reference line in contact with the upper side of the second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block. That is, when N is 3, a reference line located fourth on the upper side of the current block may be determined as the upper reference line.

[0213] According to an embodiment, a left reference line located on the left side of the current block may be determined based on N reference lines located on the left side of the current block.

[0214] In operation S1870, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may perform prediction on the current block based on the determined upper reference line.

[0215] According to an embodiment, prediction on the current block may be performed by using the determined upper reference line and the left reference line determined based on the N reference lines located on the left side of the current block.

[0216] FIGS. 19 and 20 are a block diagram of a video decoding apparatus according to an embodiment and a flowchart of a video decoding method according to an embodiment, which correspond to the video encoding apparatus and the video encoding method described above, respectively.

[0217] FIG. 19 illustrates a block diagram of a video decoding apparatus according to an embodiment.

[0218] A video decoding apparatus 1900 according to an embodiment may include a memory 1910 and at least one processor 1920 connected to the memory 1910. The operations of the video decoding apparatus 1900 according to the embodiment may be performed as individual processors or may be performed under the control of a central processor. Also, the memory 1910 of the video decoding apparatus 1900 may store data received from the outside, data generated by a processor, for example, information about an upper reference line of a current block, etc.

[0219] The processor 1920 of the video decoding apparatus 1900 may be configured to determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines, and based on the determined upper reference line, perform prediction on the current block.

[0220] Hereinafter, specific operations of a video encoding method will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 20, in which the video decoding apparatus 1900 according to the embodiment is configured to determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines, and based on the determined upper reference line, perform prediction on the current block.

[0221] FIG. 20 illustrates a flowchart of a video decoding method according to an embodiment.

[0222] Referring to FIG. 20, in operation S2010, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may determine whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block.

[0223] In operation S2030, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may determine an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line.

[0224] In operation S2050, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may determine the upper reference line of the current block based

on N reference lines.

[0225] According to an embodiment, N may be determined by reference line information obtained from a bitstream.

[0226] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the reference line information may not be obtained.

[0227] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 1, the upper reference line may be determined as a first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block.

[0228] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 2, the upper reference line may include the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block and a second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line.

[0229] According to another embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 2, the upper reference line may be determined as the second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block. That is, when N is 2, a reference line located second on the upper side of the current block may be determined as the upper reference line.

[0230] According to an embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 3, the upper reference line may include the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block, the second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line, and a fourth reference line in contact with the upper side of a third reference line in contact with the upper side of the second reference line.

[0231] According to another embodiment, when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit and N is 3, the upper reference line may be determined as the fourth reference line in contact with the upper side of the third reference line in contact with the upper side of the second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current block. That is, when N is 3, a reference line located fourth on the upper side of the current block may be determined as the upper reference line.

[0232] According to an embodiment, a left reference line located on the left side of the current block may be determined based on N reference lines located on the left side of the current block.

[0233] In operation S2070, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may perform prediction on the current block based on the determined upper reference line.

[0234] According to an embodiment, prediction on the current block may be performed by using the determined upper reference line and the left reference line determined based on the N reference lines located on the left side of the current block.

[0235] According to an embodiment, when a reference sample having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, the reference sample having no sample value in the upper reference line may be padded by using a predetermined default value. That is, a sample value of the reference sample having no sample value in the upper reference line may be determined as the predetermined default value.

[0236] According to an embodiment, when the reference sample having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, a reference sample having no sample value in the upper reference line may be padded with a value of the reference sample having a sample value in the upper reference line. That is, a sample value of the reference sample having no sample value in the upper reference line may be determined as the value of the reference sample having a sample value in the upper reference line.

[0237] According to an embodiment, when the reference sample having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, the reference sample having no sample value in the upper reference line may be regenerated by using the value of the reference sample having a sample value in the upper reference line.

[0238] According to an embodiment, when a reference line having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, a sample value of the reference line having no sample value may be padded by using a predetermined default value. That is, the sample value of the reference line having no sample value may be determined as the predetermined default value.

[0239] According to an embodiment, when the reference line having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, the reference sample having no sample value may be padded with the value of the reference sample having a sample value. That is, the sample value of the reference line having no sample value may be determined as a sample value of the reference line having a sample value.

[0240] According to an embodiment, when the reference line having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, a sample of the reference line having no sample value may be regenerated by using the sample value of the reference line having a sample value.

[0241] When the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, by using one reference line, the problem of an increase in the size of a reference line buffer caused by using a plurality of reference lines may be solved. In detail, in a case where the plurality of reference lines are stored in the reference line buffer and used, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, only one reference line closest to the upper boundary is stored, and thus the size of the buffer may be reduced in terms of

the largest coding unit. For example, even though prediction is performed by using only one reference line among a plurality of reference lines, in order to determine which line of the plurality of reference lines to be used, all of the plurality of reference lines are required to be stored. However, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary, only one reference line in contact with the upper boundary is stored and used, and thus the size of the buffer is reduced in terms of the largest coding unit.

[0242] According to an embodiment, a method will be described below with reference to FIG. 21, in which, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, one upper reference line is used, and when the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, a reference line is determined based on N upper reference lines.

[0243] FIG. 21 is a diagram for describing a method of using at least one reference line, according to an embodiment.

[0244] Referring to FIG. 21, in a case of multi reference line prediction using at least one reference line, reference lines 2121, 2131, 2141, and 2151 located on the upper side of a current block 2110 and reference line 2122, 2132, 2142, and 2152 located on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used. In detail, the reference lines located on the upper side may include a first upper reference line 2121 in contact with the upper side of the current block 2110, a second upper reference line 2131 in contact with the upper side of the first upper reference line 2121, a third upper reference line 2141 in contact with the upper side of the second upper reference line 2131, and a fourth upper reference line 2151 in contact with the upper side of the third upper reference line 2141. The reference lines located on the left side may include a first left reference line 2122 in contact with the left side of the current block 2110, a second left reference line 2132 in contact with the left side of the first left reference line 2122, a third left reference line 2142 in contact with the left side of the second left reference line 2132, and a fourth left reference line 2152 in contact with the left side of the third left reference line 2142.

[0245] Also, in the multi reference line prediction, the third upper reference line 2141 and the third left reference line 2142 may not be used. In detail, because the most efficient reference sample is used for the multi reference line prediction by identifying samples at various locations, a third reference line may not be used and at least one of first, second, and fourth reference lines may be used.

[0246] In the following embodiments related to FIG. 21, it is described that the number of reference lines available for each of the upper and the left sides of a current block is N. In this case, "available" does not mean whether a reference line exists, but the possibility that the reference line is used in an algorithm used for prediction.

[0247] Hereinafter, in the specification, "MRL index" is an index indicating one reference line used for prediction of the current block among a plurality of reference lines used in the multi reference line prediction.

[0248] According to an embodiment, when N is 1 (MRL index = 0), in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 in contact with the upper side of the current block 2110 and first left reference line 2122 in contact with the left side of the current block 2110 may be used. That is, when "MRL index" is 0, the first upper reference line 2121 and the left reference line, which are first reference lines of the upper reference lines and the left reference lines of the current block 2110, may be used.

[0249] According to an embodiment, when N is 2, in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 in contact with the upper side of the current block 2110, the second upper reference line 2131 in contact with the upper side of the first upper reference line 2121, the first left reference line 2122 in contact with the left side of the current block 2110, and the second left reference line 2132 in contact with the left side of the first left reference line 2122 may be used.

[0250] According to another embodiment, when N is 1 (MRL index = 1), in prediction on the current block 2110, the second upper reference line 2131 on the upper side of the current block 2110 and second left reference line 2132 on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used. That is, when "MRL index" is 1, the second upper reference line 2131 and the second left reference line 2132, which are second reference lines of the upper reference lines and the left reference lines of the current block 2110, may be used.

[0251] According to an embodiment, when N is 3, in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 in contact with the upper side of the current block 2110, the second upper reference line 2131 in contact with the upper side of the first upper reference line 2121, the fourth upper reference line 2151 in contact with the upper side of the third upper reference line 2141 in contact with the upper side of the second upper reference line 2131, the first left reference line 2122 in contact with the left side of the current block 2110, the second left reference line 2132 in contact with the left side of the first left reference line 2122, and the fourth left reference line 2152 in contact with the left side of the third left reference line 2142 in contact with the left side of the second left reference line 2132 may be used. That is, three upper reference lines that are the first upper reference line 2121, the second upper reference line 2131, and the fourth upper reference line 2151 and three left reference lines that are the first left reference line 2122, the second left reference line 2132, and the fourth left reference line 2152 may be used.

[0252] According to another embodiment, when N is 3 (MRL index = 2), in prediction on the current block 2110, the fourth upper reference line 2151 on the upper side of the current block 2110 and fourth left reference line 2152 on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used. That is, when "MRL index" is 2, the fourth upper reference line 2151 and the fourth left reference line 2152, which are fourth reference lines of the upper reference lines and the left reference lines of the current block 2110, may be used.

[0253] According to an embodiment, when the current block 2110 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block 2110 and N is 1 (MRL index = 0), in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 on the upper side of the current block 2110 and the first left reference line 2122 on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used.

[0254] According to an embodiment, when the current block 2110 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block 2110 and N is 2, in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 on the upper side of the current block 2110, and the first left reference line 2122 and the second left reference line 2132 on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used.

[0255] According to another embodiment, when the current block 2110 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block 2110 and N is 2 (MRL index = 1), in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 on the upper side of the current block 2110 and the second left reference line 2132 on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used. According to an embodiment, when the current block 2110 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block 2110 and N is 3, in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 on the upper side of the current block 2110, and the first left reference line 2122, the second left reference line 2132, and the fourth left reference line 2152 on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used.

[0256] According to another embodiment, when the current block 2110 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block 2110 and N is 3 (MRL index = 2), in prediction on the current block 2110, the first upper reference line 2121 on the upper side of the current block 2110 and the fourth left reference line 2152 on the left side of the current block 2110 may be used.

[0257] According to an embodiment, at the encoding side, N is determined through SATD or RDO calculation, and thus reference line information indicating N may be signaled.

[0258] According to an embodiment, at the encoding side, when the current block 2110 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block 2110, the reference line information indicating N may not be generated.

[0259] According to an embodiment, at the decoding side, N may be determined through the signaled reference line information indicating N.

[0260] According to an embodiment, at the decoding side, when the current block 2110 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block 2110, the reference line information indicating N may not be obtained.

[0261] FIG. 22 illustrates a flowchart of a video encoding method according to another embodiment.

[0262] The video encoding apparatus 1700 of FIG. 17 may perform operations according to the video encoding method of FIG. 22.

[0263] The video encoding apparatus 1700 may include the memory 1710 and the at least one processor 1720 connected to the memory 1710. The operations of the video encoding apparatus 1700 according to the embodiment may be performed as individual processors or may be performed under the control of a central processor. Also, the memory 1710 of the video encoding apparatus 1700 may store data received from the outside, data generated by a processor, for example, information about an upper reference line of a current luma block, etc.

[0264] The processor 1720 of the video encoding apparatus 1700 may be configured to determine whether a current luma block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current luma block, when it is determined that the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current luma block as one reference line, when it is determined that the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current luma block as two reference lines, and based on the determined upper reference line, perform prediction on a current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block.

[0265] Referring to FIG. 22, in operation S2210, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may determine whether the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current luma block.

[0266] In operation S2230, when it is determined that the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may determine an upper reference line of the current luma block as one reference line.

[0267] In operation S2250, when it is determined that the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may determine the upper reference line of the current luma block as two reference lines.

[0268] According to an embodiment, the two upper reference lines may include a first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current luma block and a second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line.

[0269] In operation S2270, the video encoding apparatus 1700 may perform prediction on a current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block based on the determined upper reference line.

[0270] According to an embodiment, prediction may be performed on the current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block, based on the determined upper reference line and two left reference lines.

[0271] According to an embodiment, weight information and deviation information are determined by using a relationship between luma reference samples of the current luma block included in the upper reference line and a chroma reference sample in contact with the upper side of the current chroma block, and the current chroma block is determined based on the weight information, the deviation information, and luma samples of the current luma block so that prediction may be performed on the current chroma block.

[0272] FIG. 23 illustrates a flowchart of a video decoding method according to another embodiment.

[0273] A video decoding apparatus 1900 of FIG. 19 may perform operations according to the video encoding method of FIG. 23.

[0274] The video decoding apparatus 1900 may include the memory 1910 and the at least one processor 1920 connected to the memory 1910. The video decoding apparatus 1900 according to the embodiment may operate as individual processors or may be operated under the control of a central processor. Also, the memory 1910 of the video decoding apparatus 1900 may store data received from the outside, data generated by a processor, for example, information about an upper reference line of a current luma block, etc.

[0275] The processor 1920 of the video decoding apparatus 1900 may be configured to determine whether a current luma block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current luma block, when it is determined that the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine an upper reference line of the current luma block as one reference line, when it is determined that the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determine the upper reference line of the current luma block as two reference lines, and based on the determined upper reference line, perform prediction on a current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block.

[0276] Referring to FIG. 23, in operation S2310, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may determine whether the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current luma block.

[0277] In operation S2330, when it is determined that the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may determine an upper reference line of the current luma block as one reference line.

[0278] In operation S2350, when it is determined that the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may determine the upper reference line of the current luma block as two reference lines.

[0279] According to an embodiment, the two upper reference lines may include a first reference line in contact with the upper side of the current luma block and a second reference line in contact with the upper side of the first reference line.

[0280] In operation S2370, the video decoding apparatus 1900 may perform prediction on a current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block based on the determined upper reference line.

[0281] According to an embodiment, prediction may be performed on the current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block, based on the determined upper reference line and two left reference lines.

[0282] According to an embodiment, weight information and deviation information are determined by using a relationship between luma reference samples of the current luma block included in the upper reference line and a chroma reference sample in contact with the upper side of the current chroma block, and the current chroma block is determined based on the weight information, the deviation information, and luma samples of the current luma block so that prediction may be performed on the current chroma block.

[0283] A method of performing prediction on a current chroma block by using a relationship between a luma reference sample of a current luma block and a chroma reference sample of the current chroma block will be described below with reference to FIGS. 24A to 25B.

[0284] FIG. 24A illustrates luma samples located around a current luma block and a chroma sample located around a current chroma block, according to an embodiment, and FIG. 24B illustrates luma samples of a current luma block and a chroma sample of a current chroma block, according to an embodiment.

[0285] Referring to FIGS. 24A and 24B, weight information and deviation information about a correlation between 6 luma samples L_1 to L_6 2450 among reconstructed adjacent luma samples 2430 neighboring a current luma block 2470 in a luma block 2410 and a chroma sample 2460 of reconstructed adjacent chroma samples 2440 neighboring a current chroma block 2480 in a chroma block 2420 may be derived, and by using the weight information, the deviation information, and reconstructed luma samples L_1 to L_6 2490 of the current luma block 2470, derived by a method expressed by Equation 1, a chroma sample $\hat{C}$ 2491 of the current chroma block 2480 may be reconstructed.

[0286] According to an embodiment, one or more chroma samples may be predicted by using N predetermined luma samples to predict a chroma sample. Also, the N predetermined luma samples may be a luma sample of a current luma block corresponding to a location of a chroma sample of a current chroma block and adjacent samples of the luma sample of the corresponding current luma block, or may be the luma sample of the current luma block corresponding to the location of the chroma sample of the current chroma block and arbitrary samples not neighboring the luma sample of the corresponding current luma block.

[0287] More specifically, a predictor $\hat{C}$ of the chroma sample may be expressed by Equation 1 or 2.

【Equation 1】

$$\hat{C} = \omega_1 \Delta L_1 + \omega_2 \Delta L_2 + \omega_3 \Delta L_3 + \omega_4 \Delta L_4 + \omega_5 \Delta L_5 + \omega_6 \Delta L_6 + \mu$$

【Equation 2】

$$\hat{C} = \omega_1 L_1 + \omega_2 L_2 + \omega_3 L_3 + \omega_4 L_4 + \omega_5 L_5 + \omega_6 L_6 + \mu$$

As seen in Equations 1 and 2, the predictor $\hat{C}$ of the chroma sample may represent a value obtained by adding a deviation to a weighted sum of sample values (for example, L_1) of luma samples or differences (e.g., ΔL_1) that are differences between the luma samples and an average value of the luma samples and weights (e.g., ω_1) corresponding to the respective samples values or the respective differences.

According to an embodiment, some of weights ω_1 to ω_N may be zero.

According to an embodiment, a prediction mode of an adjacent luma block of a current chroma block may be an intra prediction mode, weight information may be a modeling parameter value representing a correlation between a luma sample of the adjacent luma block and a chroma sample of an adjacent chroma block, and a chroma sample of a current chroma block may be reconstructed by using 6 luma samples among reconstructed luma samples of the current luma block, 6 weights respectively corresponding to the 6 luma samples, and a deviation value of deviation information, wherein the 6 weights may be a value obtained by multiplying a fixed weight determined in advance according to the intra prediction mode by the modeling parameter value representing the correlation between the luma sample and the chroma sample.

When I_p represents the intra prediction mode, the modeling parameters $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_N$ may be replaced by $s \cdot \omega'_{ip,1}, \dots, s \cdot \omega'_{ip,N}$, respectively, and according to the intra prediction mode, the modeling parameters $s \cdot \omega'_{ip,1}, \dots, s \cdot \omega'_{ip,N}$ may use only modeling parameters s and μ by fixing a value of $\omega'_{ip,1}, \dots, \omega'_{ip,N}$.

According to an embodiment, the weights $\omega'_{ip,1}, \dots, \omega'_{ip,N}$ fixed according to the intra prediction mode may have the same value in the form of a Gaussian filter, etc. regardless of the intra prediction mode, or have different values according to the intra prediction mode.

FIG. 25A illustrates luma samples located around a current luma block and a chroma sample located around a current chroma block, according to another embodiment, and FIG. 25B illustrates luma samples of a current luma block and a chroma sample of a current chroma block, according to another embodiment.

Referring to FIGS. 25A and 25B, when a current luma block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current luma block, one reference line in contact with the upper side of the current luma block is used.

In detail, weight information and deviation information about a correlation between 3 luma samples L'_1 to L'_3 2550 included in one reference line in contact with the upper side of a current luma block 2570 among reconstructed adjacent luma samples 2530 neighboring the current luma block 2570 in a luma block 2510 and a chroma sample 2560 of reconstructed adjacent chroma samples 2540 neighboring a current chroma block 2580 in a chroma block 2520 may be derived, and by using the weight information, the deviation information, and reconstructed luma samples L'_1 to L'_3 2590 of the current luma block 2570, derived by a method expressed by Equation 1, a chroma sample $\hat{C}$ 2591 of the current chroma block 2580 may be reconstructed.

Also, because two reference lines are used as a reference line in contact with the left side of the current luma block, as seen in FIGS. 24A and 24B, weight information and deviation information about a correlation between 6 adjacent luma samples and an adjacent chroma sample are derived, and by using the reconstructed luma samples L_1 to L_6 2490 of the current luma block 2470, the chroma sample $\hat{C}$ 2491 of the current chroma block 2480 may be reconstructed.

According to an embodiment, when the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current luma block, the number and locations of samples to be used to predict a chroma block from a luma block under a condition of using one reference line in contact with the upper side of the current luma block may be changed according to an algorithm.

Also, even when the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current luma block, the number and locations of the samples to be used to predict the chroma block from the luma block may be changed according to the algorithm.

FIG. 26A illustrates an embodiment in which the number of upper reference lines is different from the number of left reference lines, FIG. 26B illustrates an embodiment in which the number of upper reference lines is the same as the number of left reference lines, and FIG. 26C illustrates an embodiment in which, when the number of upper reference lines is different from the number of left reference lines, padding is performed so that the number of upper reference lines and the number of left reference line are the same.

[0300] Referring to FIG. 26A, according to an embodiment, the number of an upper reference line 2620 of a current block 2610 may be different from the number of a left reference line 2630 of the current block 2610. In detail, the number of the upper reference line 2620 located on the upper side of the current block 2610 is determined as N, and the number of the left reference line 2630 located on the left side of the current block 2610 is determined as M, wherein M may be greater than or equal to N. N may be determined as a value of a maximum line buffer set in the codec. For example it may be N=2 and M=4, N=1 and M=2, or N=1 and M=4.

[0301] According to an embodiment, referring to FIG. 26A, when the current block 2610 is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block 2610, the number of the upper reference line 2620 located on the upper side of the current block 2610 is determined as N, and the number of the left reference line 2630 located on the left side of the current block 2610 is determined as M, wherein M may be greater than or equal to N. N may be determined as a value of a maximum line buffer set in the codec. For example it may be N=2 and M=4, N=1 and M=2, or N=1 and M=4.

[0302] According to an embodiment, when a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block, whether one reference line or use N predetermined reference lines are to be used may be determined through a flag. Whether the one reference line or use the N predetermined reference lines are to be used may be determined through a flag in a frame unit, a largest coding unit, or a block unit.

[0303] According to another embodiment, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, whether one reference line or N predetermined reference lines are to be used by a decoding apparatus may be determined without a separate flag, depending on the availability of a reference block of the current block.

[0304] When the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, in a case where a flag indicating whether one reference line or N predetermined reference lines are to be used, the flag may be simultaneously applied to both a luma block and a chroma block, or may be individually applied to a luma block and a chroma block. Also, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, whether one reference line or N predetermined reference lines are to be used may be determined according to different criteria (e.g., a block size, an intra mode, reference availability) for each of the luma block and the chroma block.

[0305] According to another embodiment, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, whether one reference line or N predetermined reference lines are to be used may be determined according to a size of the current block without signaling of the flag.

[0306] According to an embodiment, through a flag of a tool (e.g., LM chroma, adaptive loop filter (ALF), etc.) using a plurality of reference lines, whether a plurality of reference lines are to be used when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block may be determined.

[0307] According to an embodiment, by obtaining flag information of the tool in advance for each largest coding unit, only in a case where a rate of the flag being turned on is N % or higher, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, it may be permissible to use the plurality of reference lines.

[0308] According to an embodiment, by determining whether a tool of an adjacent largest coding unit of the largest coding unit including the current block is turned on/off, in a case where a rate of a flag of the adjacent largest coding unit being turned on is M % (e.g., M is 50) or higher, when the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current block, it may be permissible to use the plurality of reference lines. In detail, all of largest coding units available as adjacent largest coding units may be used, or information about whether tools of only some largest coding units are turned on may be selectively used. Also, not all of the adjacent largest coding units are used, and only information about whether a tool of a coding unit adjacent to the largest coding unit including the current block is turned on/off may be used.

[0309] According to an embodiment, by using information about surroundings, whether the flag is to be applied may be determined without separate signaling.

[0310] Also, referring to FIG. 26B, when a current block 2611 is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, both the number of an upper reference line 2621 of the current block 2611 and the number of a left reference line 2631 of the current block 2611 may be determined as M.

[0311] Referring to FIG. 26C, when the number of an upper reference line 2622 of a current block 2612 is N and the number of a left reference line 2632 of the current block 2612 is M, in a case where the number of upper reference lines and the number of left reference lines are required to be the same, an area equal to M-N above the N upper reference lines 2622 may be filled by padding the area with upper pixels of the N upper reference lines 2622.

[0312] In this case, pixels of the area equal to M-N may be generated by using pixels of one or more reference lines in the N upper reference lines 2622. At this time, various methods such as padding, extrapolation, filtering, etc. may be used as generation methods.

[0313] According to an embodiment, when the number of the N upper reference lines 2622 is two or more, the area equal to M-N above the N upper reference line 2622 may be filled by padding the area with a gradient between two adjacent reference lines.

[0314] When the current block 2612 is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit including the current

block 2612, in a case only one upper line is used, a method of using a tool changes according to conditions, and thus, as in the embodiment described above, as many reference lines as originally required may be generated through padding, linear extrapolation, or non-linear filtering using one upper line. In this case, other surrounding information that may be used may be used together.

[0315] The disclosure has been particularly shown and described with reference to embodiments thereof. In this regard, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the scope of the disclosure. Therefore, the embodiments should be considered in a descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation. The scope of the disclosure is defined not by the detailed descriptions of the disclosure but by the following claims, and all differences within the scope will be construed as being included in the disclosure.

[0316] Meanwhile, the aforescribed embodiments of the disclosure may be written as a program executable on a computer, and may be implemented in general-use digital computers that execute the program by using a computer-readable recording medium. Examples of the computer-readable recording medium include magnetic storage media (e.g., ROM, floppy disks, hard disks, etc.), optical recording media (e.g., CD-ROMs, or DVDs), or the like.

[0317] The invention might include, relate to, and/or be defined by, the following aspects:

Aspect 1. A video decoding method comprising:

determining whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block;

when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line;

when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and

performing prediction on the current block, based on the determined upper reference line,

wherein N is a natural number.

Aspect 2. The video decoding method of aspect 1, wherein N is determined according to reference line information obtained from a bitstream.

Aspect 3. The video decoding method of aspect 2, wherein, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the reference line information is not obtained.

Aspect 4. The video decoding method of aspect 1, wherein, when N is 2, the upper reference line is determined as a second reference line in contact with an upper side of a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current block.

Aspect 5. The video decoding method of aspect 1, wherein, when N is 3, the upper reference line is determined as a fourth reference line in contact with an upper side of a third reference line in contact with an upper side of a second reference line in contact with an upper side of a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current block.

Aspect 6. The video decoding method of aspect 1, wherein a left reference line located in a left side of the current block is determined based on the N reference lines.

Aspect 7. The video decoding method of aspect 1, wherein, when a reference line having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, a sample value of the reference line having no sample value is padded with a predetermined default value.

Aspect 8. The video decoding method of aspect 1, wherein, when a reference line having no sample value exists in the upper reference line, a reference sample having no sample value is padded with a value of a reference sample having a sample value, or a sample of the reference line having no sample value is regenerated by using a sample value of a reference line having a sample value.

Aspect 9. A video decoding method comprising:

determining whether a current luma block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current luma block;

when it is determined that the current luma block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current luma block as one reference line;

when it is determined that the current luma block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current luma block as two reference lines; and

performing prediction on a current chroma block corresponding to the current luma block, based on the determined upper reference line.

Aspect 10. The video decoding method of aspect 9, wherein the two reference lines comprise a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current luma block and a second reference line in contact with an upper side of the first reference line.

Aspect 11. The video decoding method of aspect 9, wherein weight information and deviation information are determined based on a relationship between luma reference samples of the current luma block included in the upper reference line and a chroma reference sample in contact with an upper side of the current chroma block, and by determining the current chroma block based on the weight information, the deviation information, and luma samples of the current luma block, prediction is performed on the current chroma block.

Aspect 12. A video encoding method comprising:

determining whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block;

when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining an upper reference line of the current block as one reference line;

when it is determined that the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, determining the upper reference line of the current block based on N reference lines; and

performing prediction on the current block, based on the determined upper reference line,

wherein N is a natural number.

Aspect 13. The video encoding method of aspect 12, further comprising generating reference line information indicating a value of N.

Aspect 14. The video encoding method of aspect 13, wherein, when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, the reference line information is not generated.

Aspect 15. The video encoding method of aspect 11, wherein, when N is 3, the upper reference line is determined as a fourth reference line in contact with an upper side of a third reference line in contact with an upper side of a second reference line in contact with an upper side of a first reference line in contact with an upper side of the current block.

Claims

1. A video decoding method comprising:

determining whether multiple reference lines can be used for intra prediction of a current image and whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block;

when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, not obtaining, from a bitstream, reference line information indicating a location of a reference line for intra prediction of the current block, and determining one reference line in contact with an upper boundary of the current block, as an upper reference line of the current block;

when it is determined that the multiple reference lines can be used for intra prediction of the current image and the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, obtaining the reference line information from the bitstream, and determining one reference line indicated by the reference line information from among a plurality of reference lines, as an upper reference line of the current block; and
 5 based on the determined upper reference line, performing intra prediction on the current block, wherein the upper reference line is a row of reference samples located above the upper boundary of the current block,
 wherein the largest coding unit is one among a plurality of largest coding units split from the current image, wherein the current block is split from the largest coding unit,
 10 wherein when all samples in the upper reference line are not available, a sample value of a sample in the upper reference line is determined as a predetermined value.

2. A video encoding method comprising:

15 determining whether multiple reference lines can be used for intra prediction of a current image and whether a current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block;
 when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, not generating reference line information indicating a location of a reference line for intra prediction of the current block, and determining one reference line in contact with an upper boundary of the current block, as an upper
 20 reference line of the current block;
 when it is determined that the multiple reference lines can be used for intra prediction of the current image and the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, generating the reference line information, and determining one reference line indicated by the reference line information from among a plurality of reference lines, as an upper reference line of the current block; and
 25 based on the determined upper reference line, performing intra prediction on the current block, wherein the upper reference line is a row of reference samples located above the upper boundary of the current block,
 wherein the largest coding unit is one among a plurality of largest coding units split from the current image, wherein the current block is split from the largest coding unit,
 30 wherein when all samples in the upper reference line are not available, a sample value of a sample in the upper reference line is determined as a predetermined value.

3. A non-transitory computer-readable medium for recording a bitstream, the bitstream comprising:

35 reference line information indicating a location of a reference line for intra prediction of a current block, wherein the reference line information is obtained by:

determining whether multiple reference lines can be used for intra prediction of a current image and whether the current block is in contact with an upper boundary of a largest coding unit including the current block;
 40 when it is determined that the current block is in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, not generating the reference line information, and determining one reference line in contact with an upper boundary of the current block, as an upper reference line of the current block;
 when it is determined that the multiple reference lines can be used for intra prediction of the current image and the current block is not in contact with the upper boundary of the largest coding unit, generating the reference
 45 line information, and determining one reference line indicated by the reference line information from among a plurality of reference lines, as an upper reference line of the current block; and
 based on the determined upper reference line, performing intra prediction on the current block, wherein the upper reference line is a row of reference samples located above the upper boundary of the current block,
 50 wherein the largest coding unit is one among a plurality of largest coding units split from the current image, wherein the current block is split from the largest coding unit,
 wherein when all samples in the upper reference line are not available, a sample value of a sample in the upper reference line is determined as a predetermined value.

FIG. 1

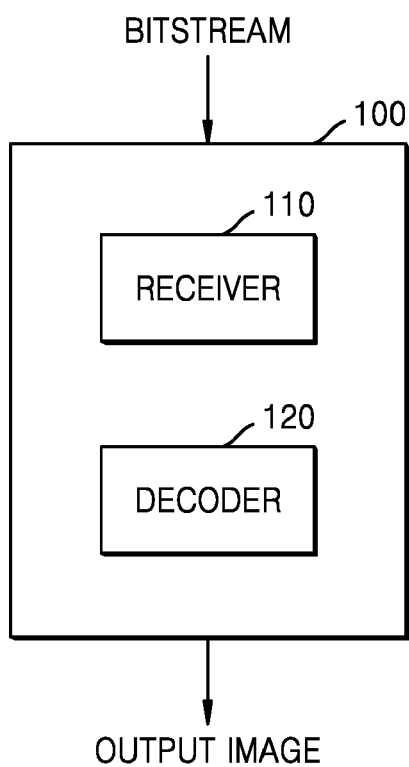


FIG. 2

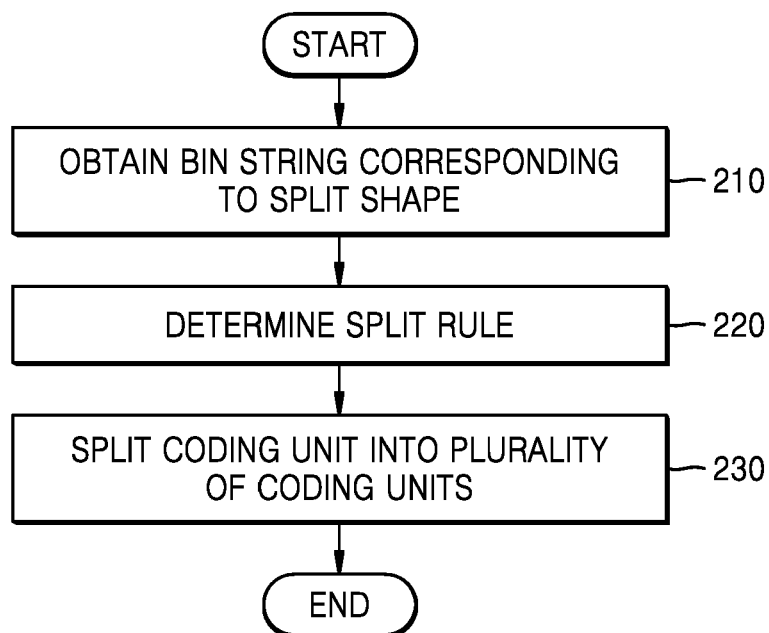


FIG. 3

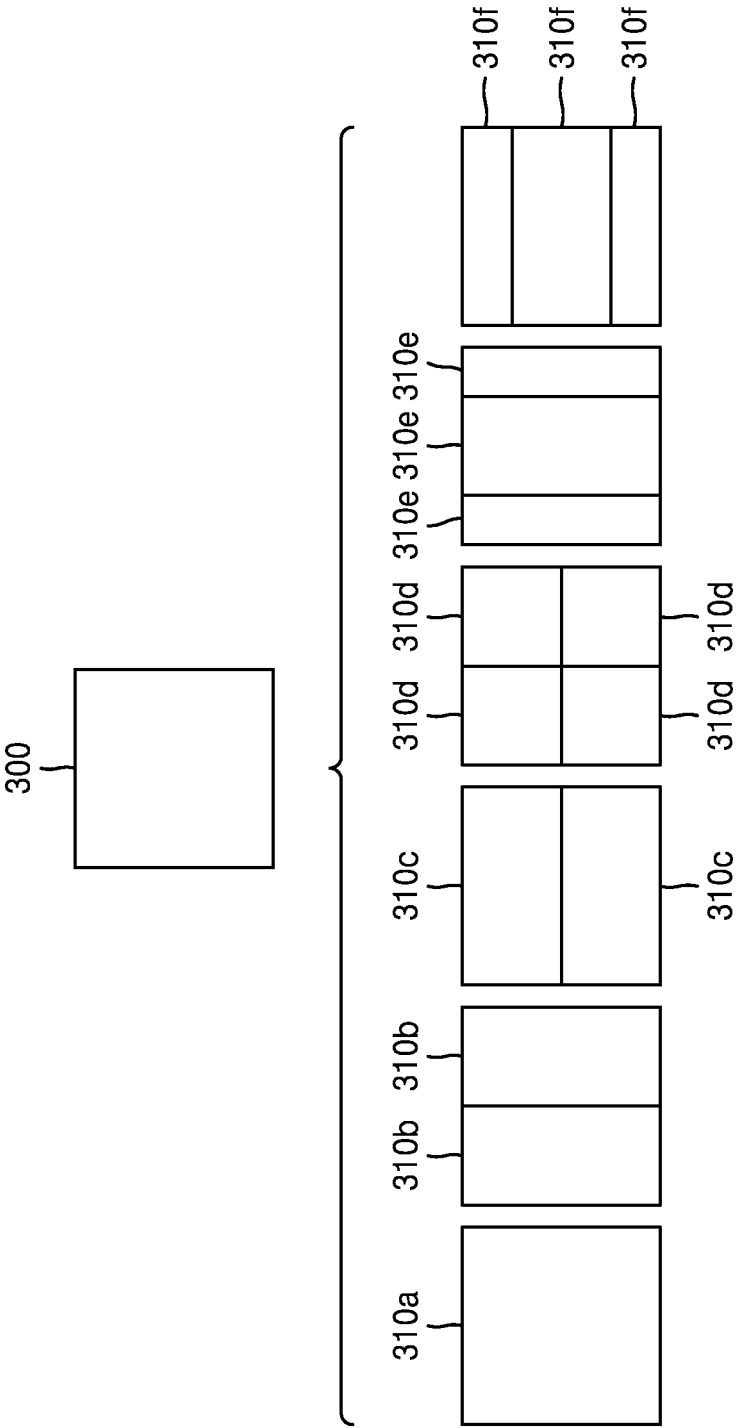


FIG. 4

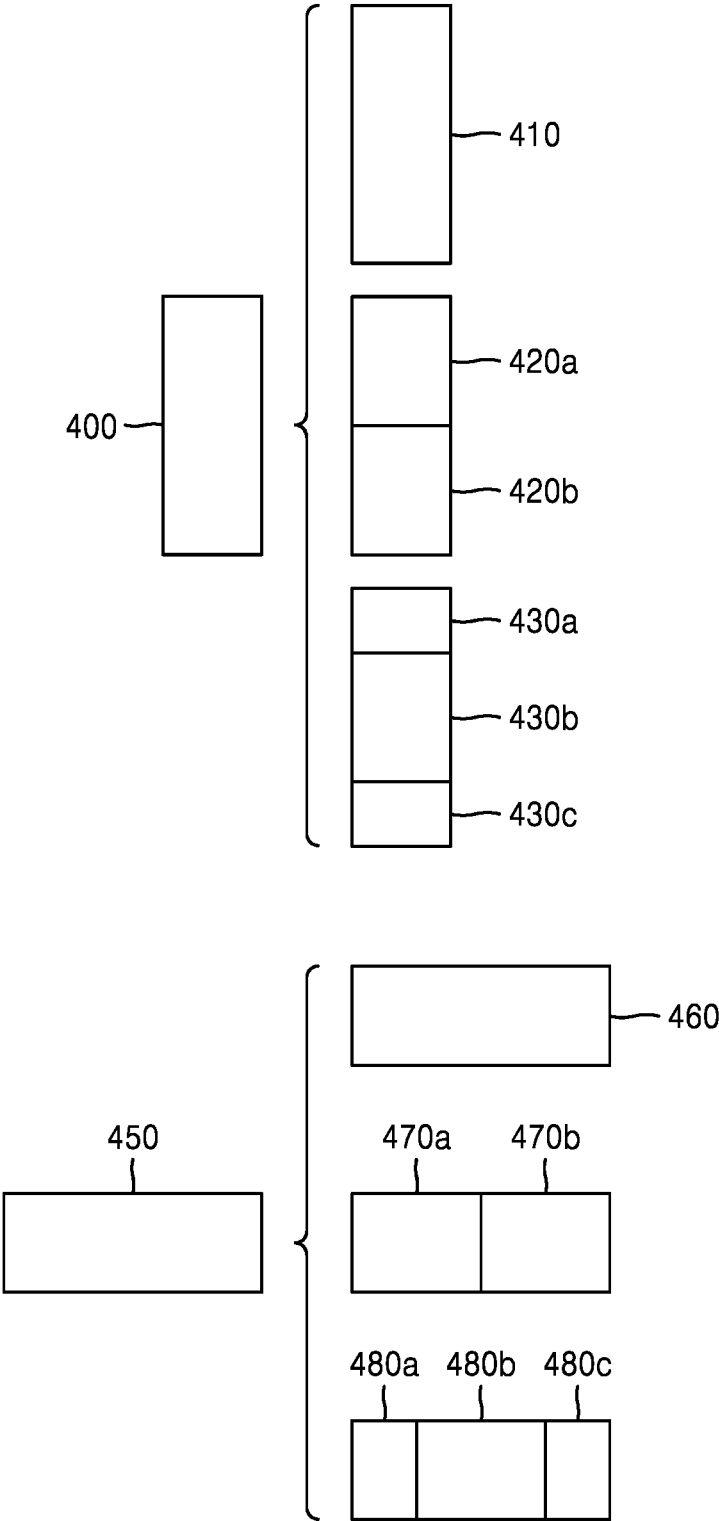


FIG. 5

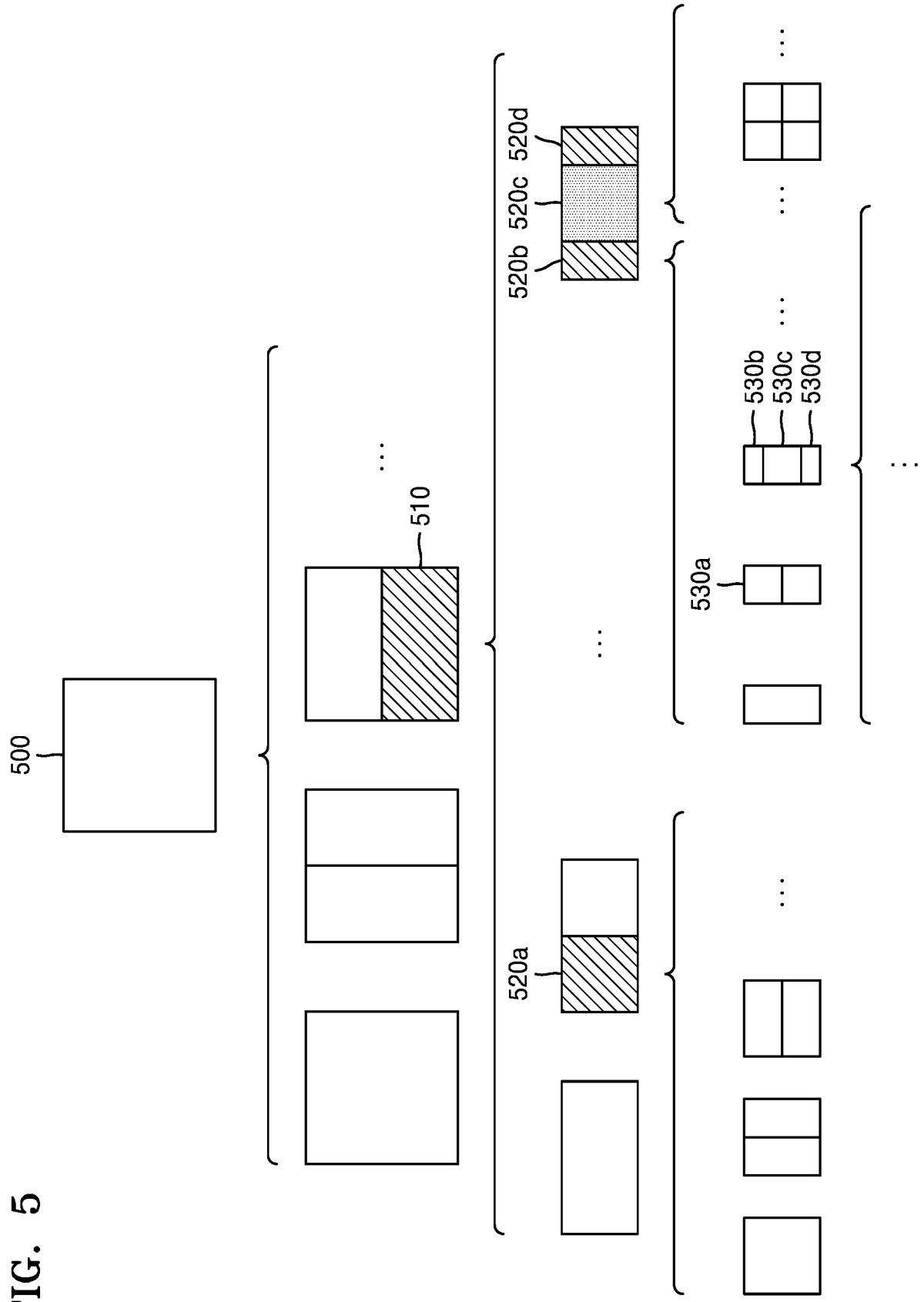


FIG. 6

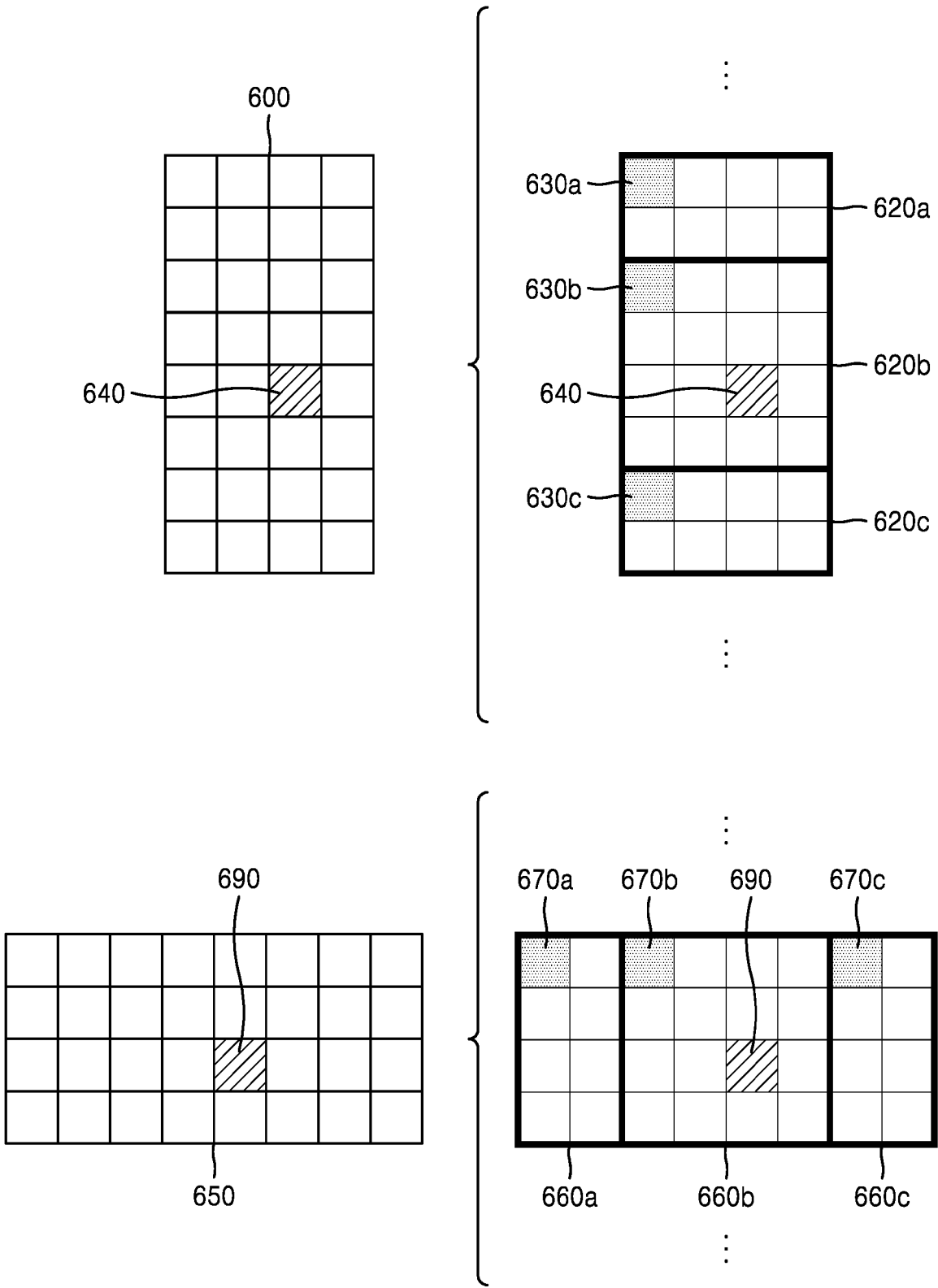


FIG. 7

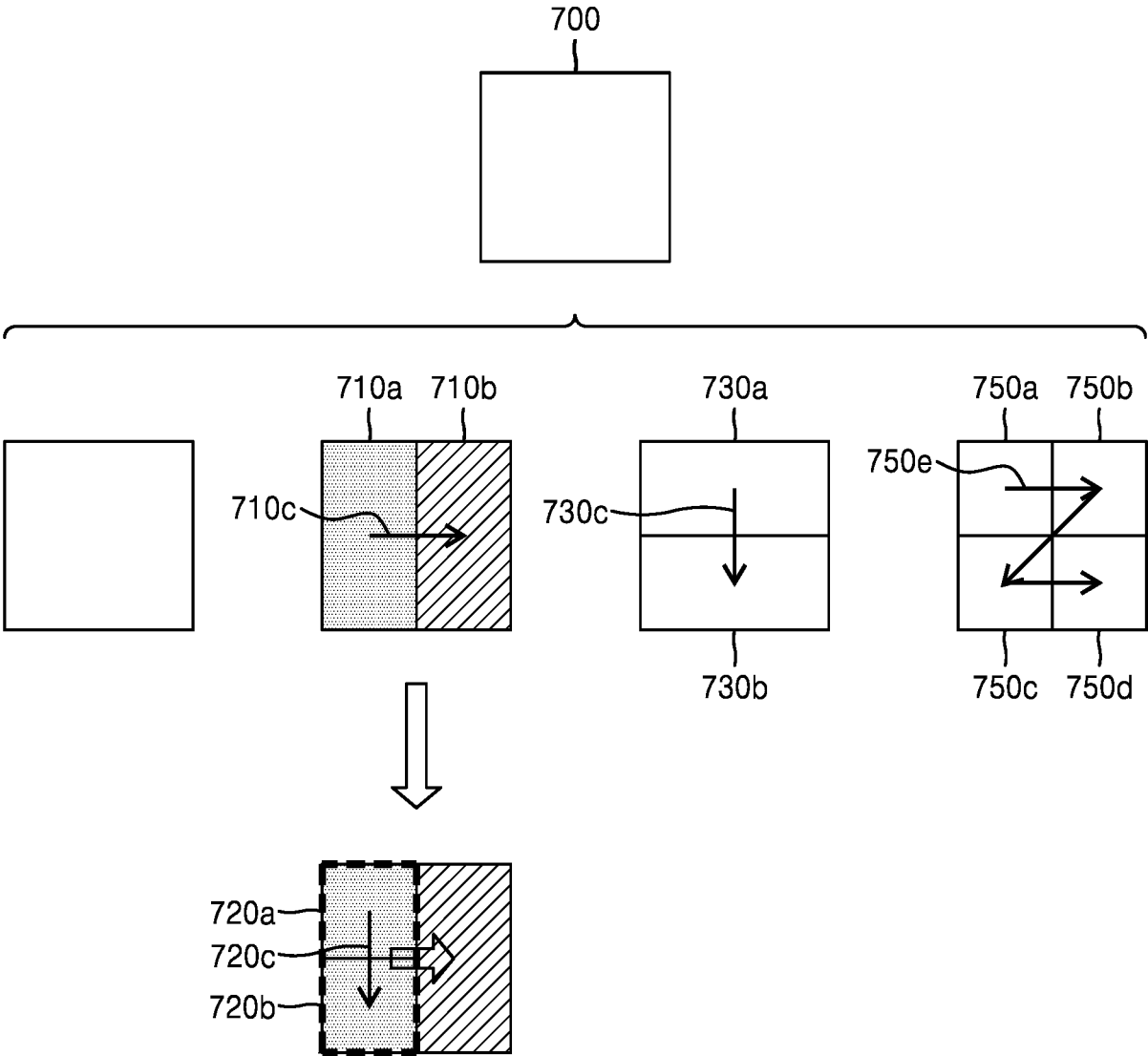


FIG. 8

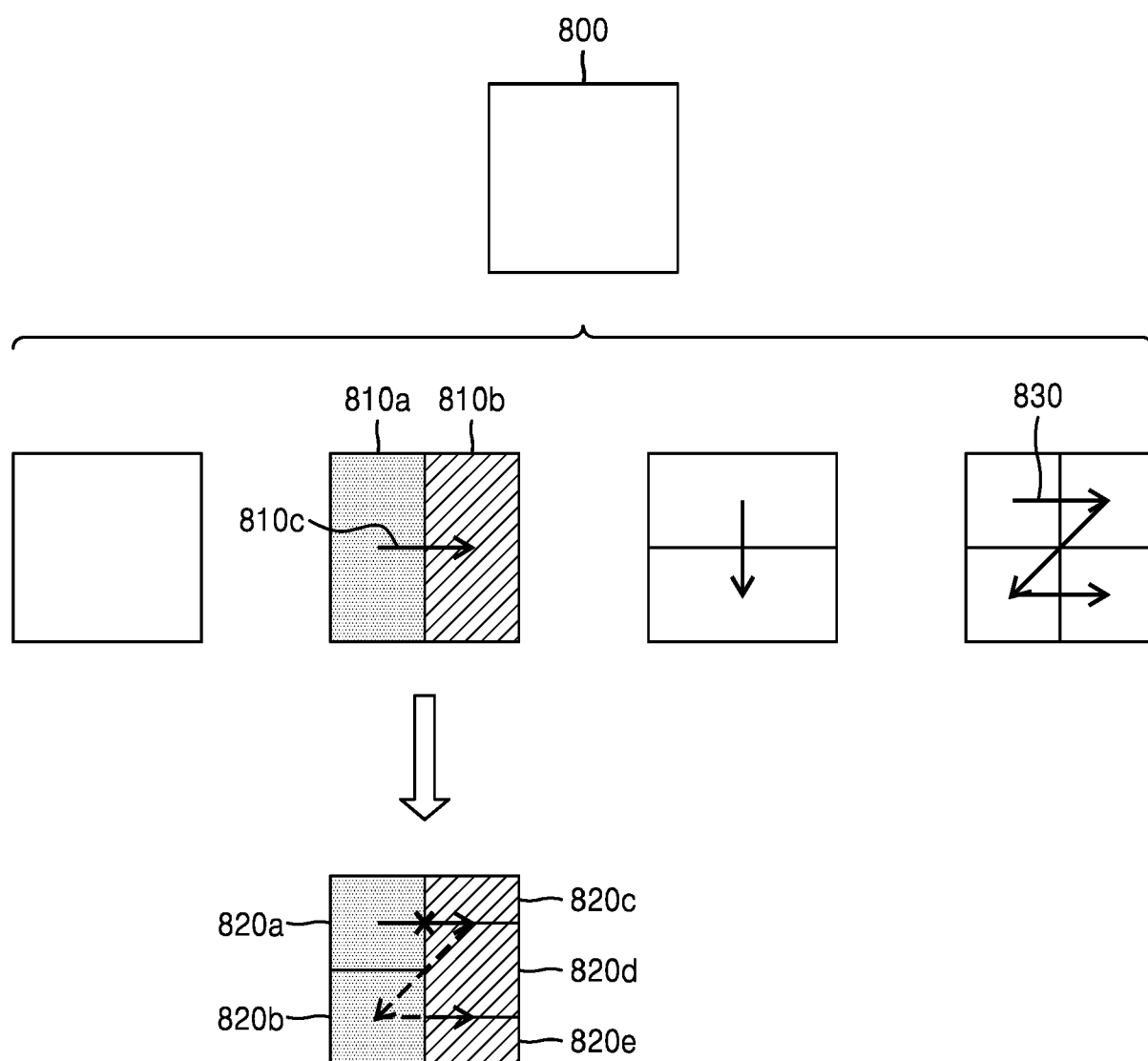


FIG. 9

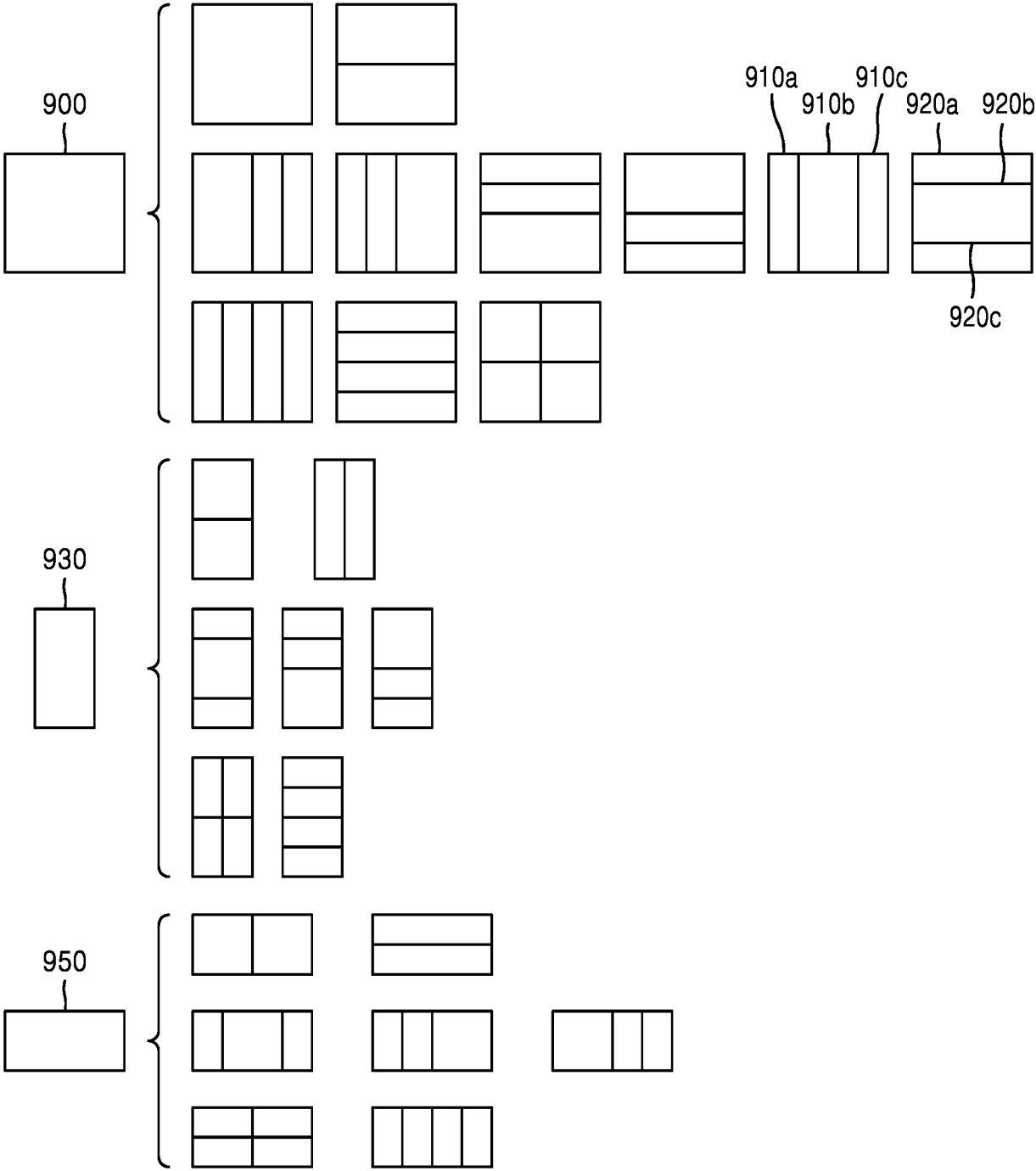


FIG. 10

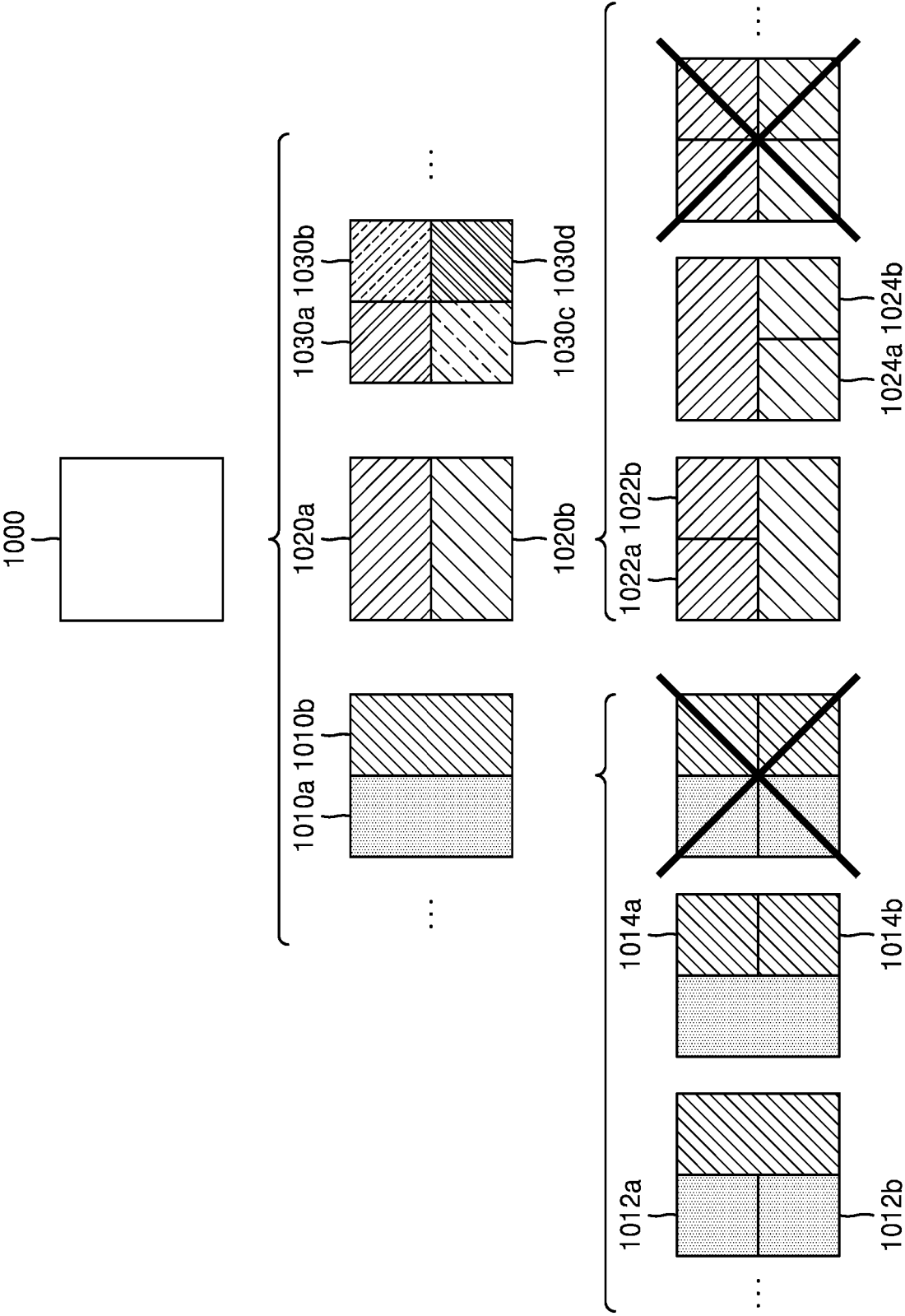


FIG. 12

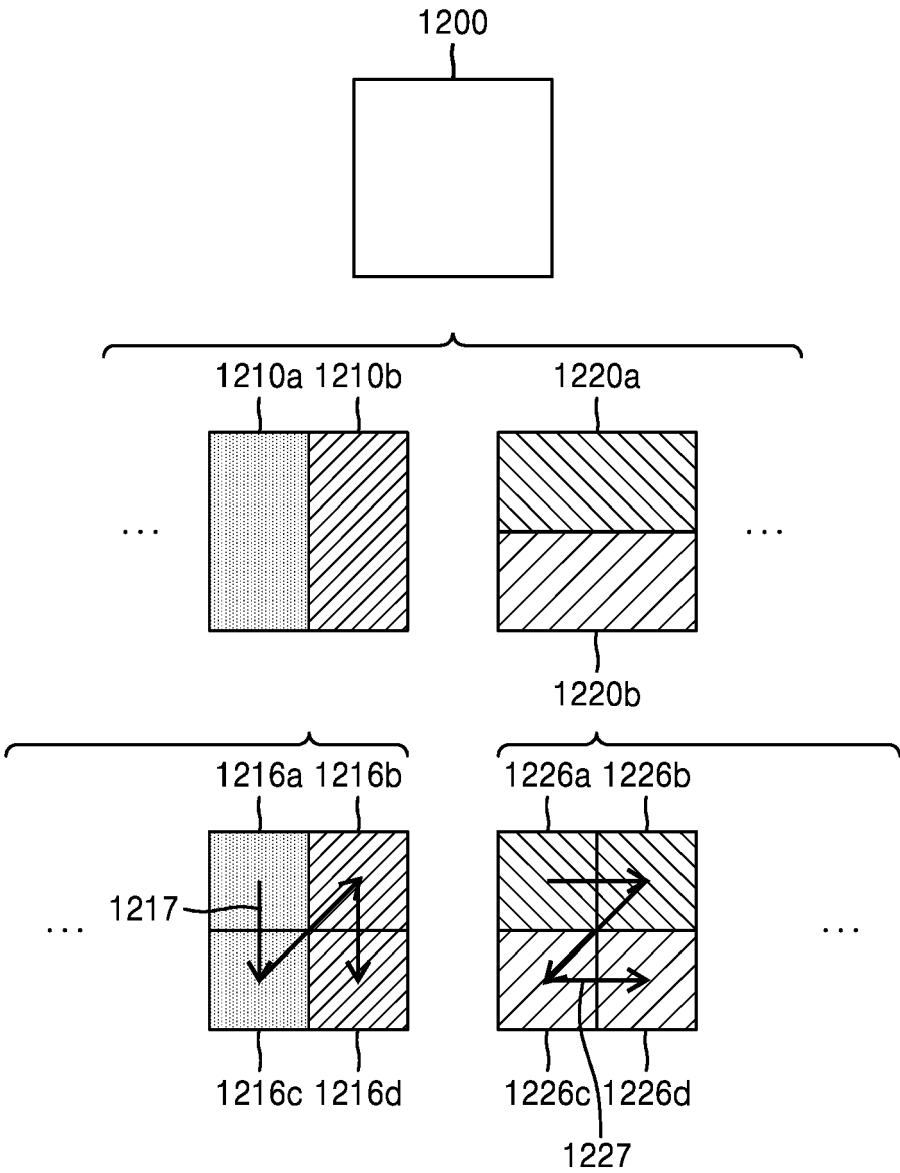


FIG. 13

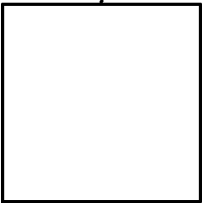
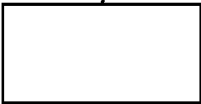
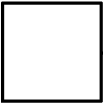
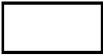
SPLIT SHAPE DEPTH	0: SQUARE	1: NS_VER	2: NS_HOR
DEPTH D	1300 	 1310	1320 
DEPTH D+1	 1302	 1312	 1322
DEPTH D+2	 1304	 1314	 1324
...	...	...	...

FIG. 14

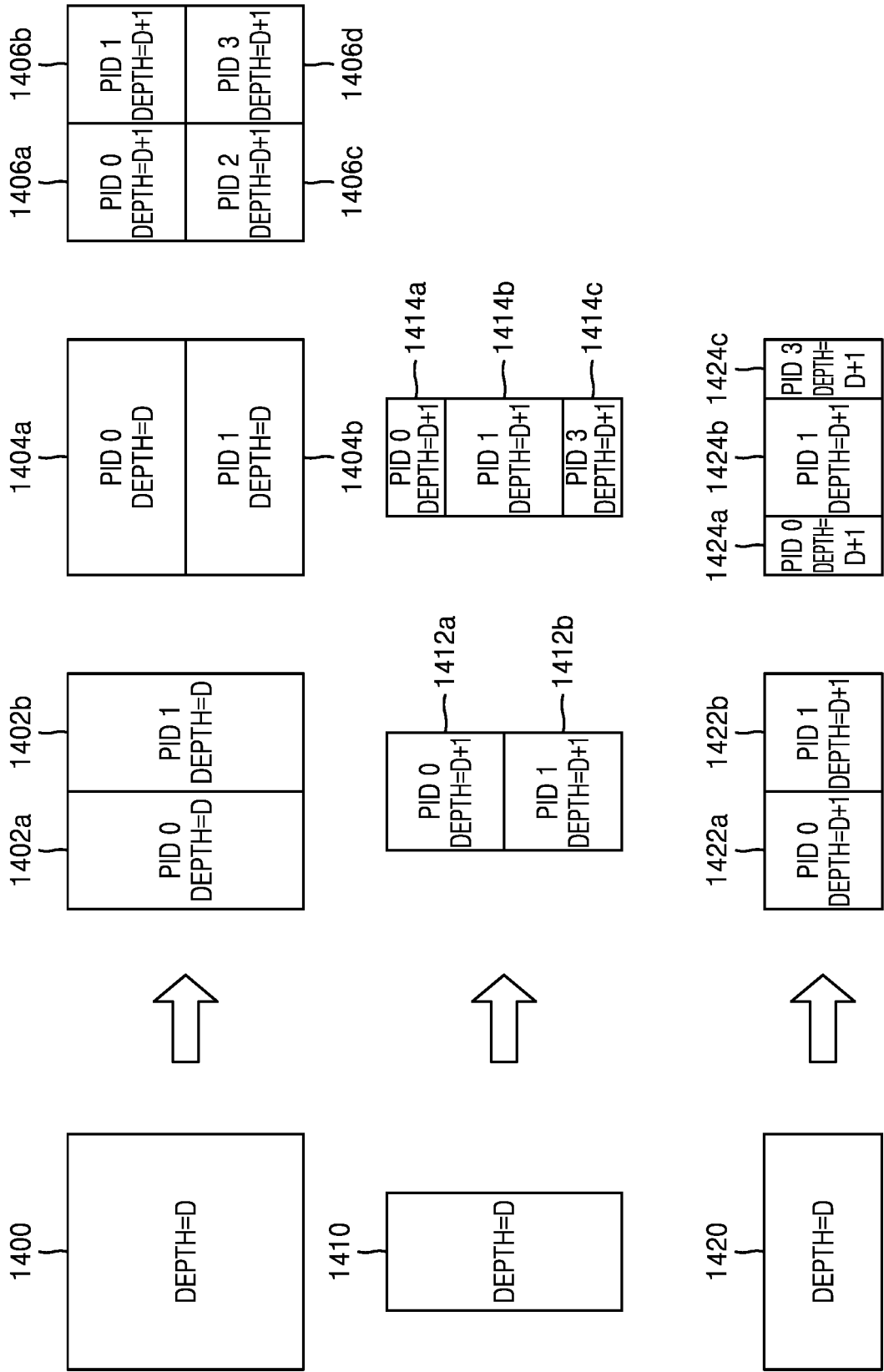


FIG. 15

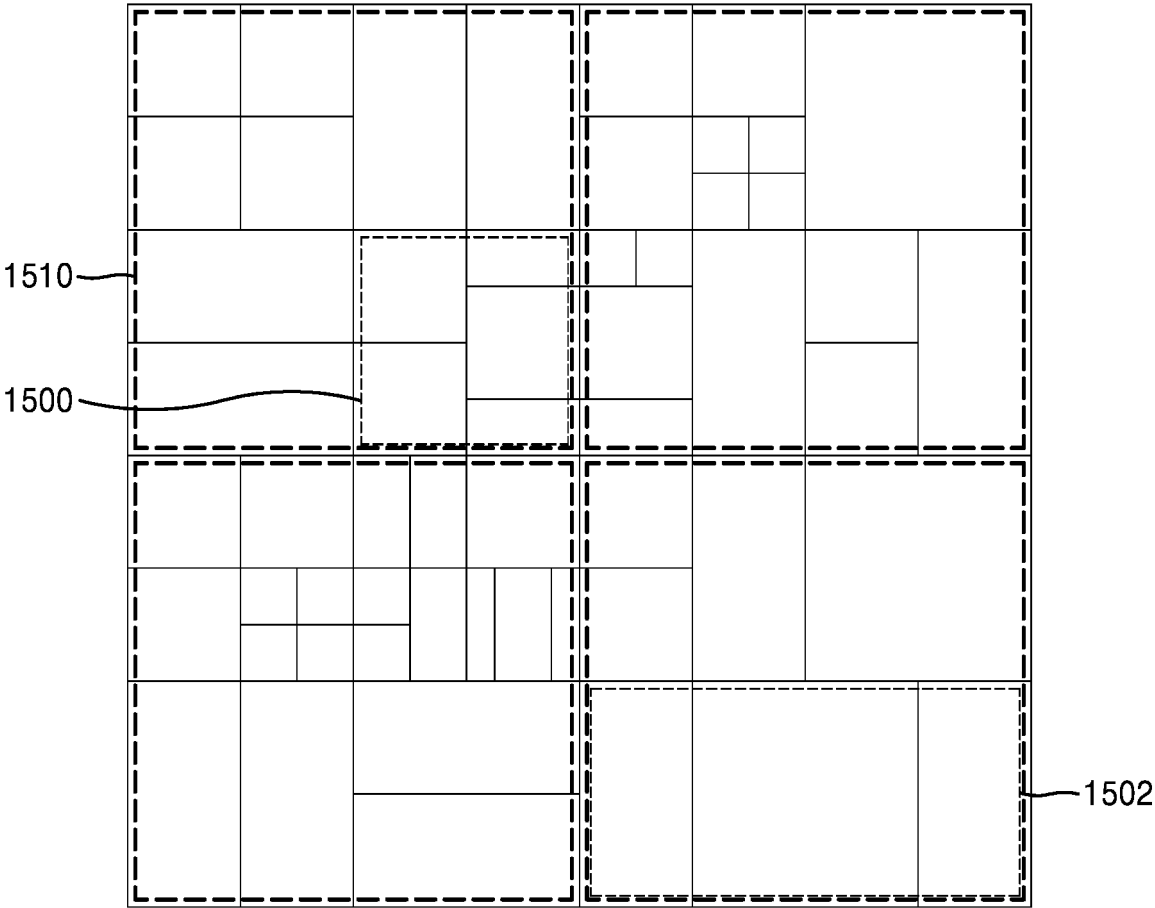


FIG. 16

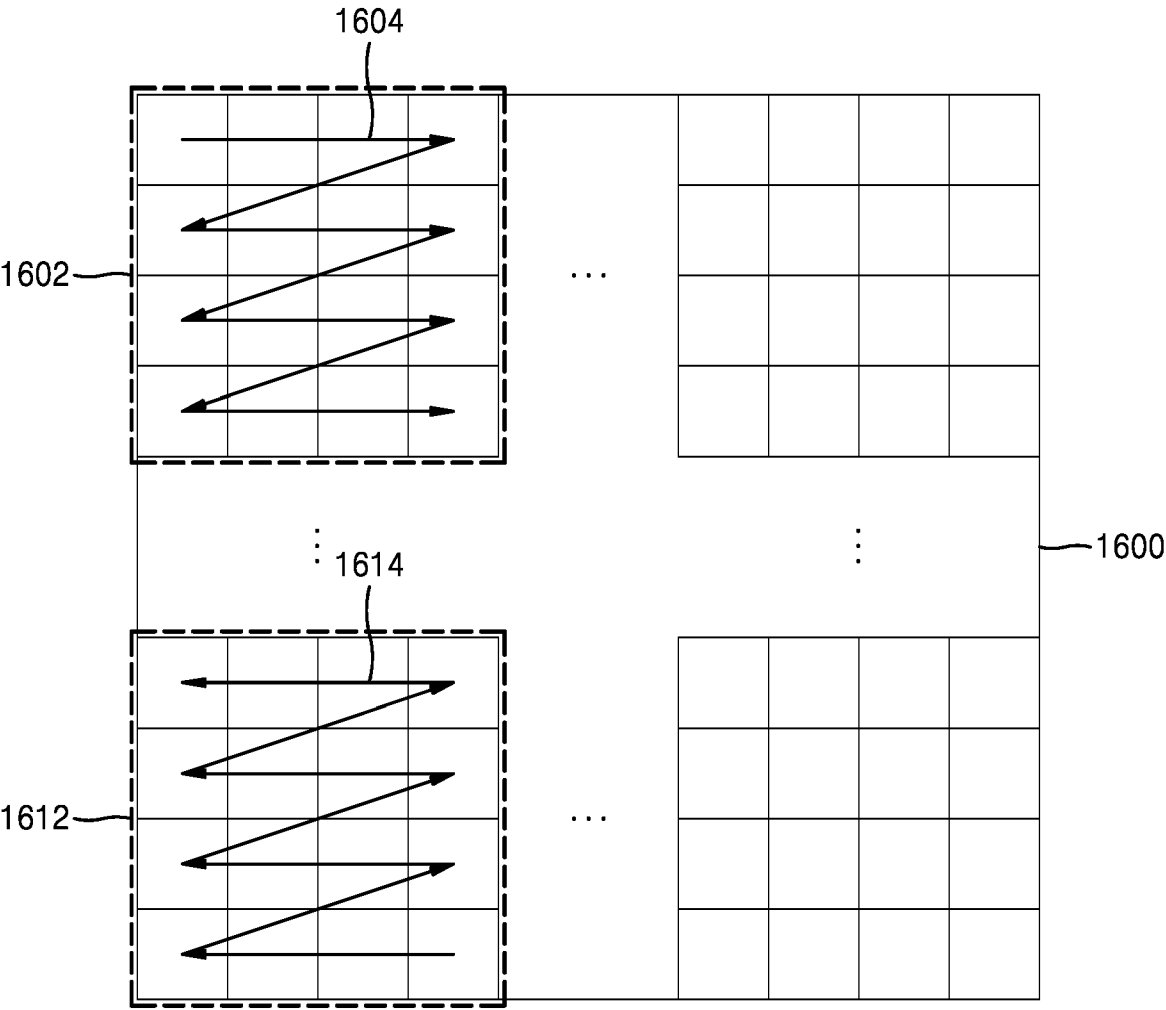


FIG. 17

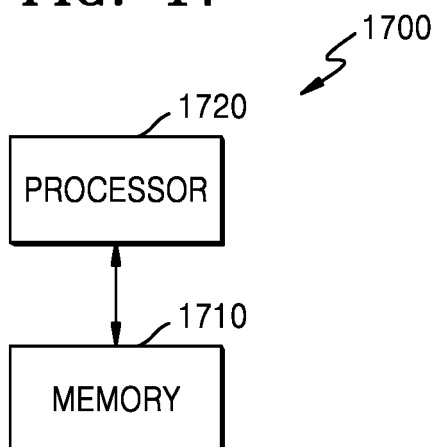


FIG. 18

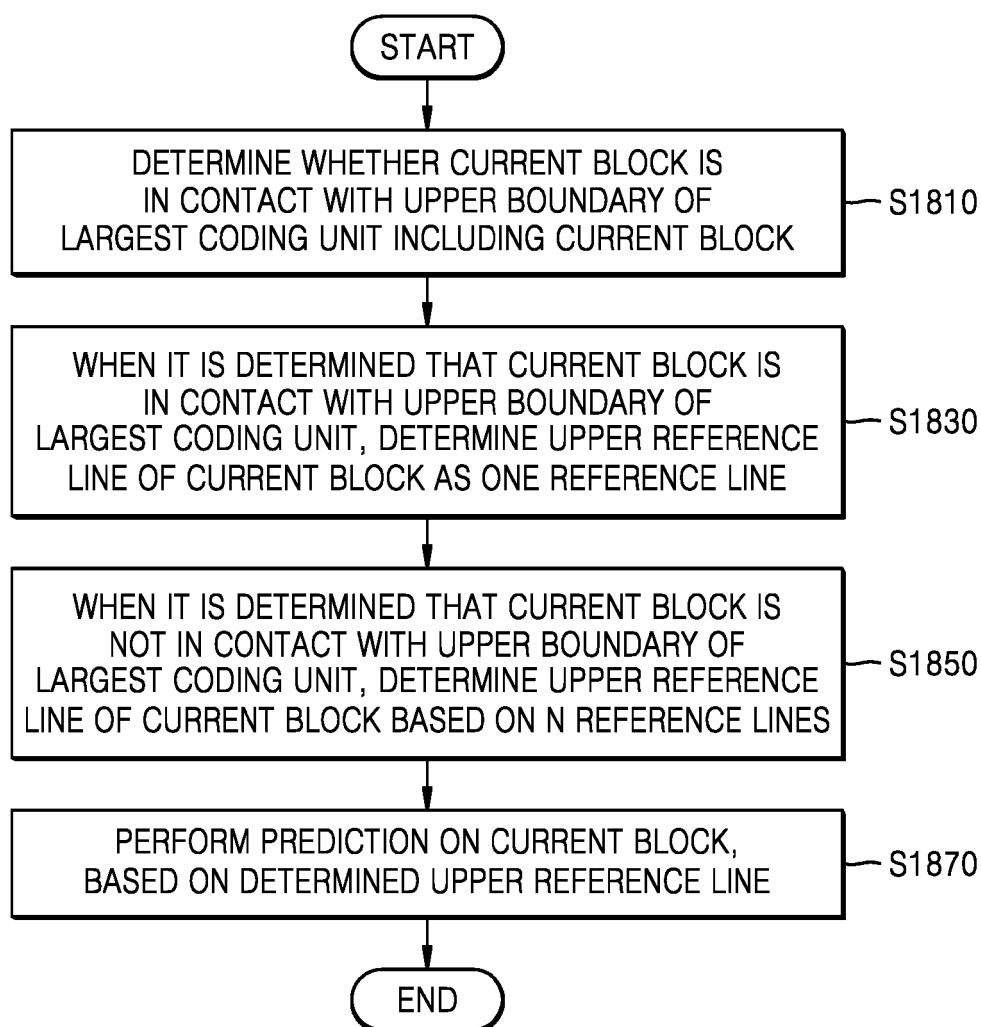


FIG. 19

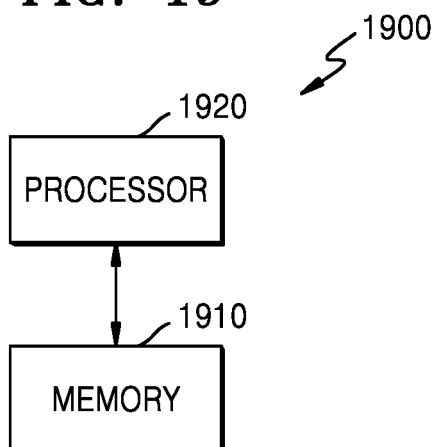


FIG. 20

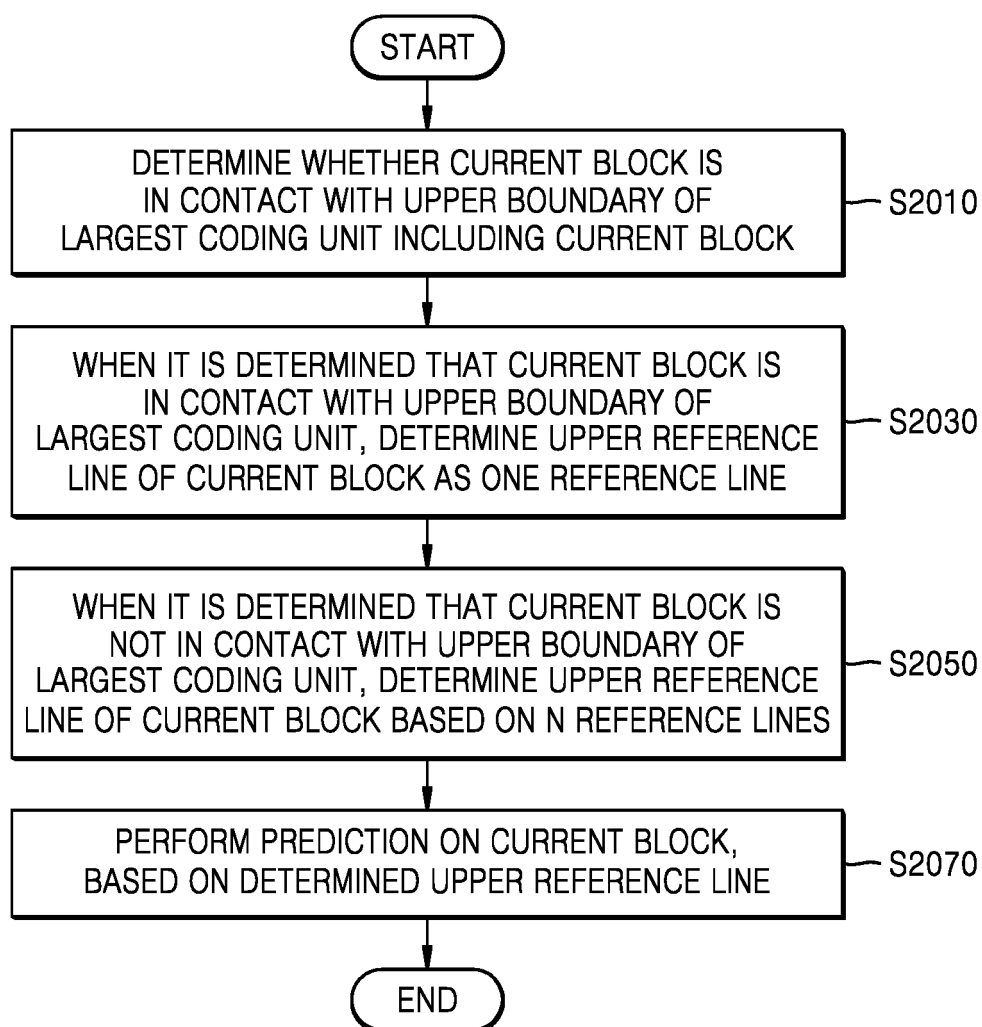


FIG. 21

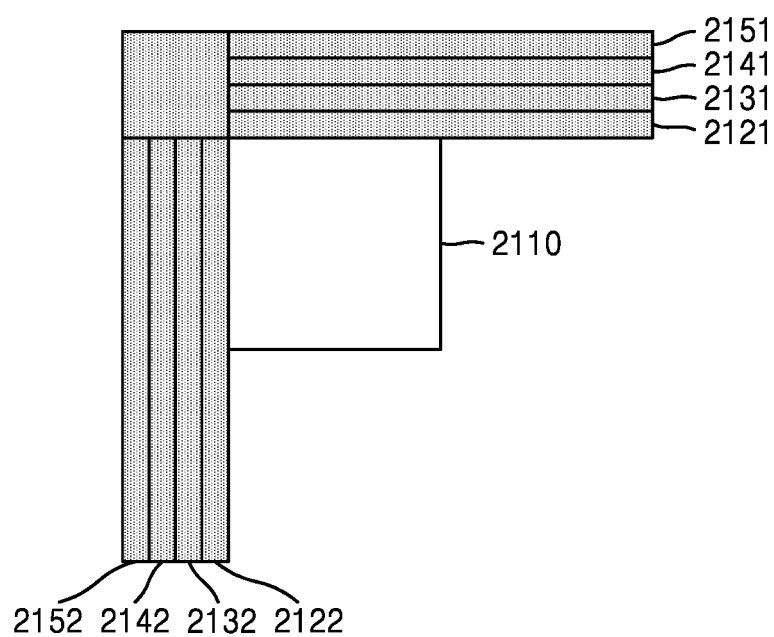


FIG. 22

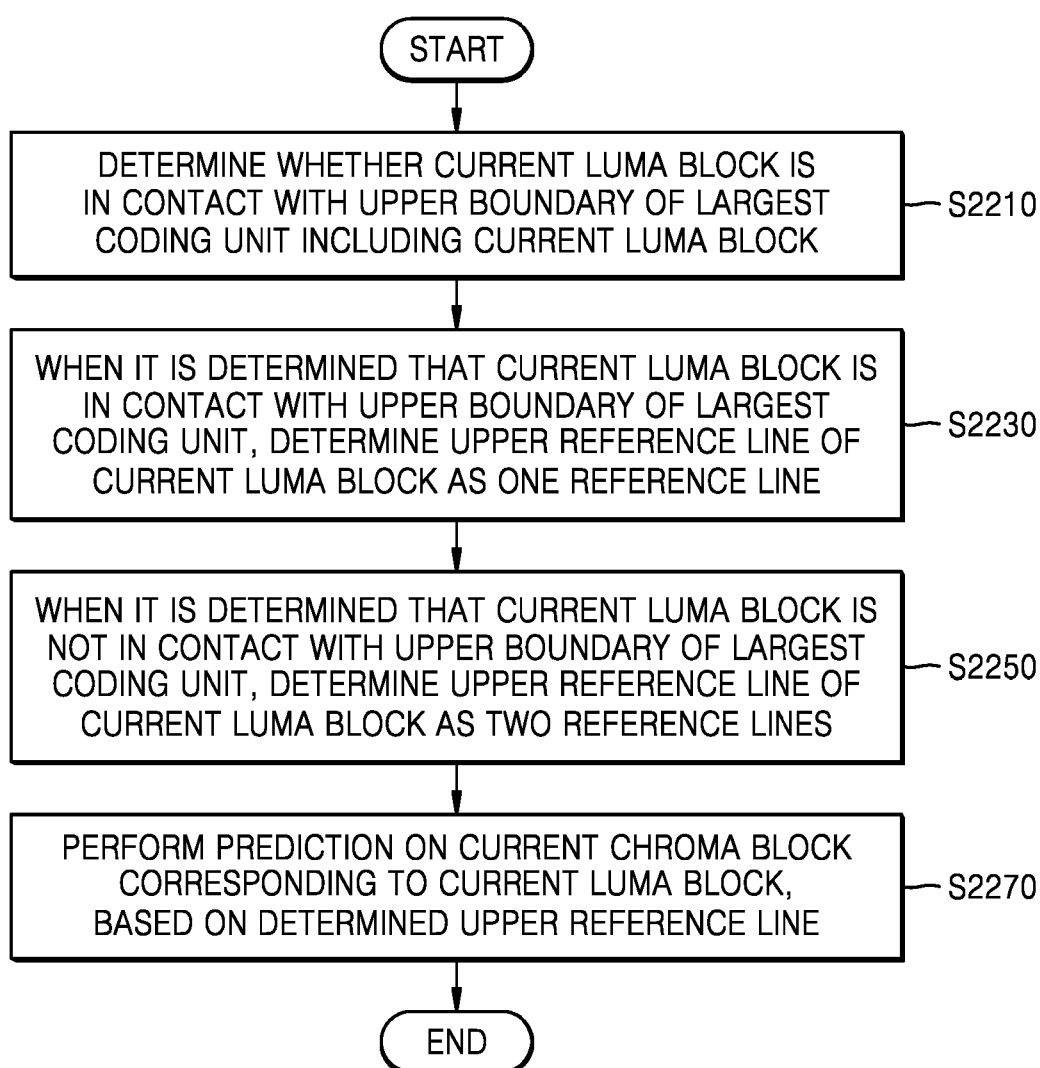


FIG. 23

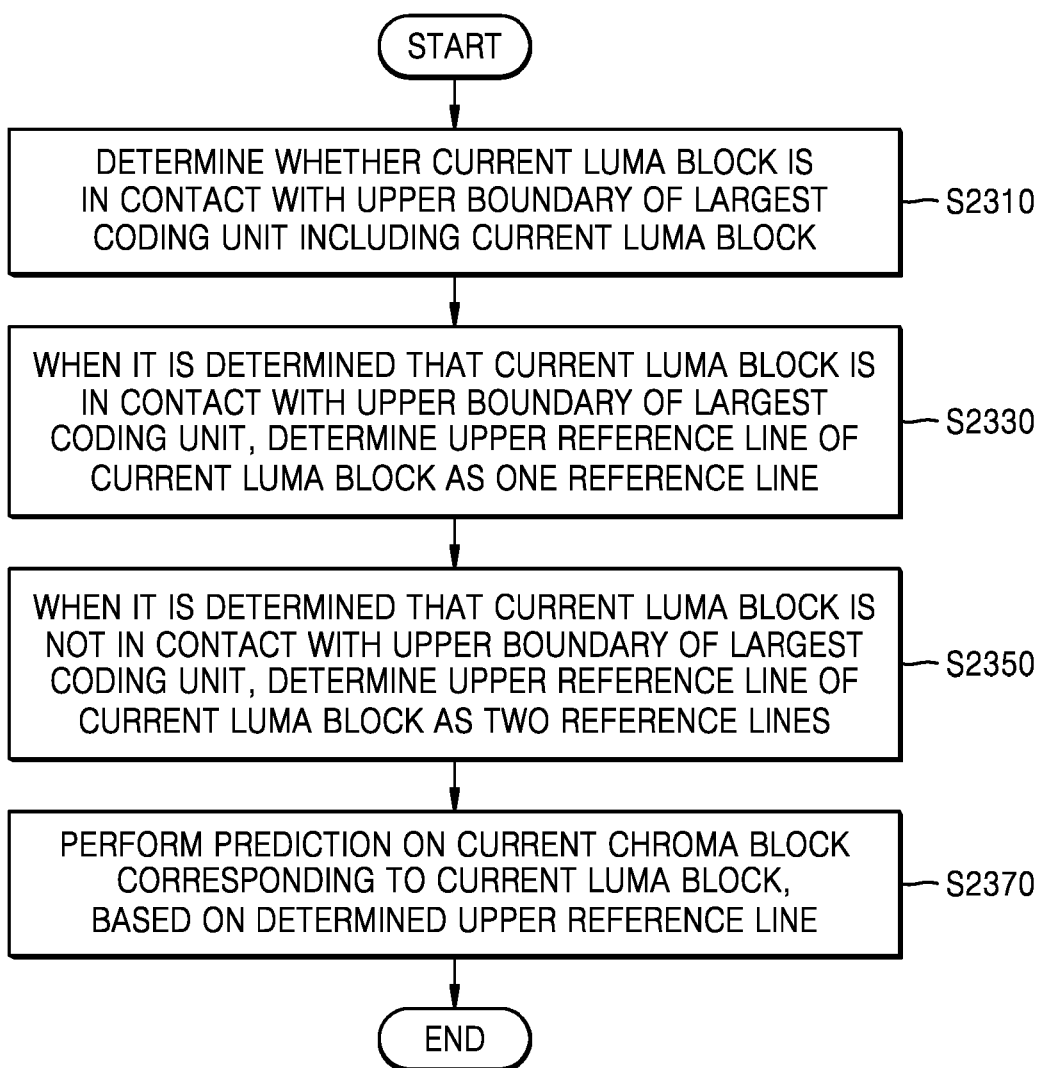


FIG. 24A

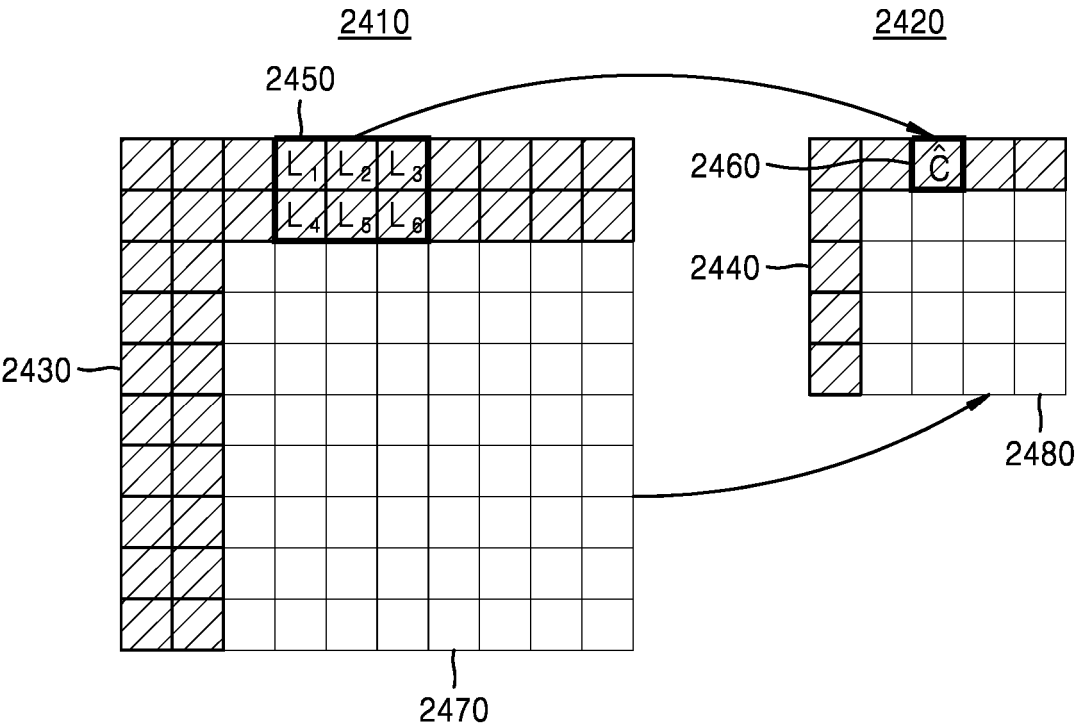


FIG. 24B

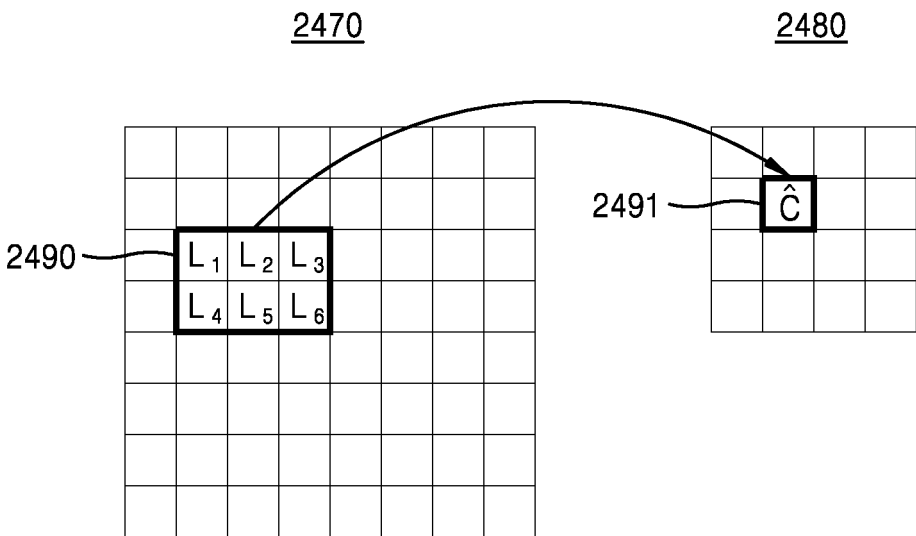


FIG. 25A

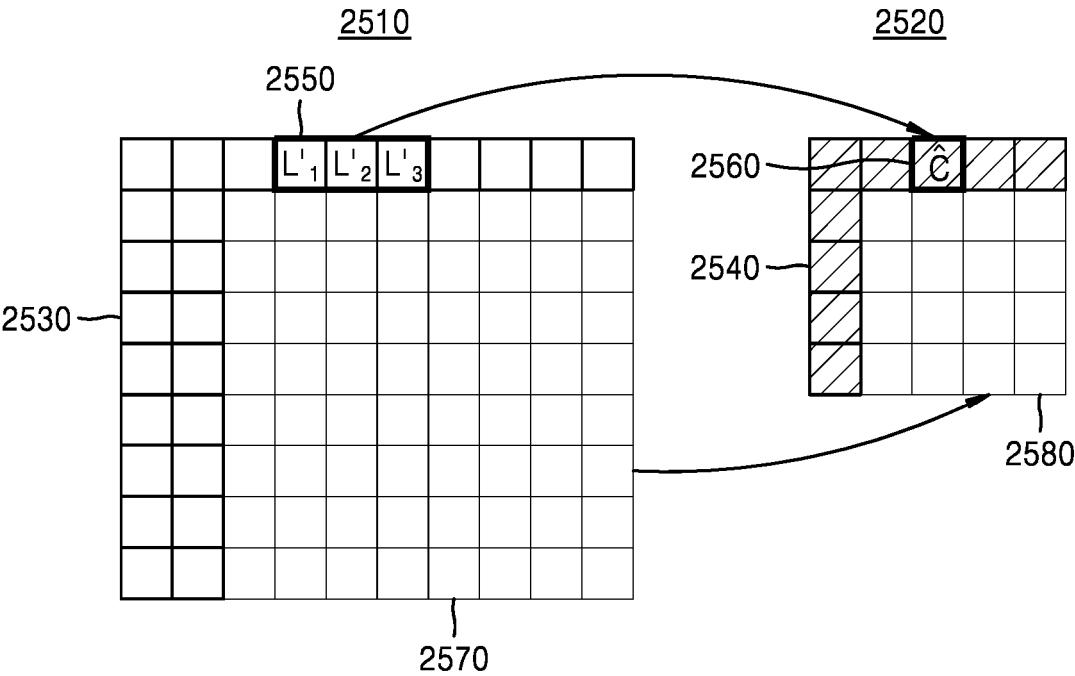


FIG. 25B

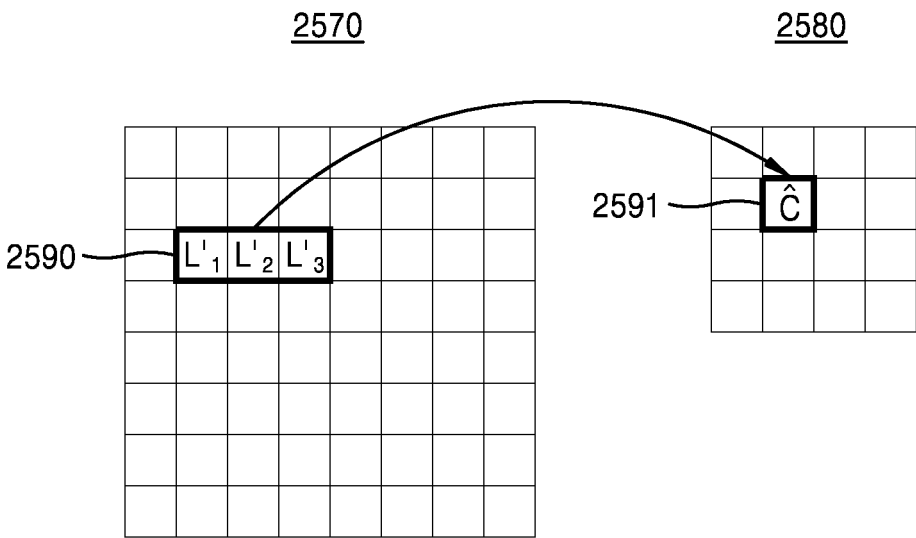


FIG. 26A

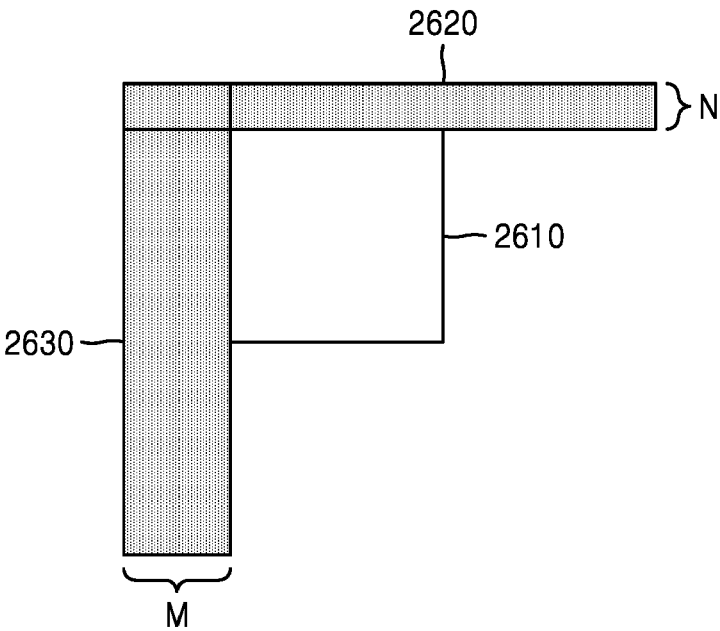


FIG. 26B

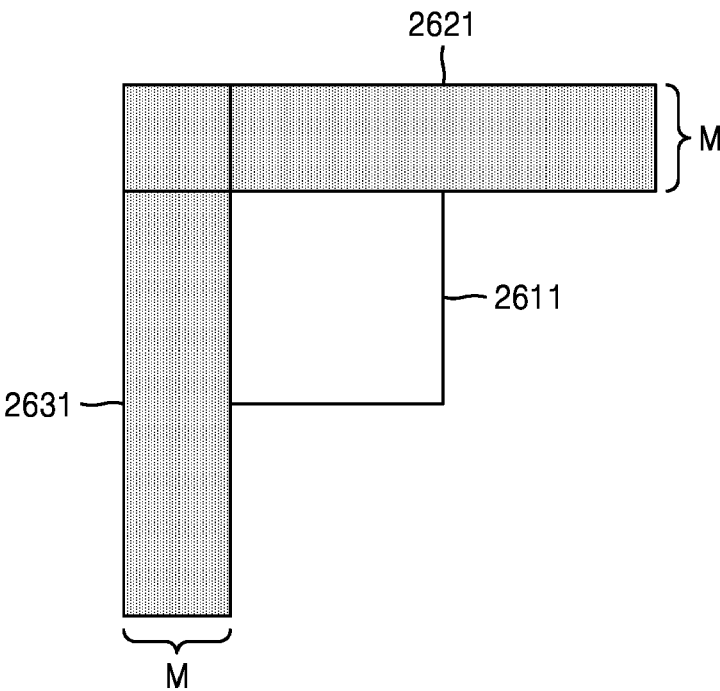


FIG. 26C

